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Bedford Level. + Adventurers, &c

A

**Collection of LAWS**  
**WHICH**  
**Form the CONSTITUTION of the**  
**Bedford LEVEL CORPORATION;**

**TOGETHER WITH**  
**AN INTRODUCTORY HISTORY thereof.**

By **CHARLES NALSON COLE, Esq;**  
of the *Inner Temple*, Barrister at Law, and Register to  
the CORPORATION.

—— *Bedford Level, erst*  
A dreary Pathless waste ——  
Till one of that high honour'd Patriot Name  
*RUSSEL* arose, who drain'd the Rushy Fen,  
Confin'd the Waters, bid Groves and Gardens bloom,  
And through his new Creation led the *Ouze*  
And gentle *Camus*, silver winding Streams,  
Godlike Beneficence! from *Cbaos* drear,  
To raise the Garden and the shady Grove.

DYER'S FLEECHE.

**L O N D O N:**

Printed by H. WOODFALL and W. STRAHAN, Law-Printers to  
the King's Most Excellent Majesty, for C. BATHURST, at  
the *Cross Keys*, opposite St. Dunstan's Church, *Fleetstreet*.

MDCCLXI.



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TO THE MOST NOBLE  
JOHN DUKE OF BEDFORD;  
MARQUIS OF TAVISTOCK, &c.

LORD PRIVY SEAL,  
Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter,

AND  
Governor of the *Bedford* LEVEL CORPORATION;

This Body of LAWS  
(Now First collected together)  
Form'd for the Advancement of an Undertaking;  
The Object of which,  
Was public Utility, and the Happiness of Individuals:

Begun by *FRANCIS* Earl of *Bedford*,

And ever since,  
Benevolently patronized and protected,  
By his illustrious Descendants;

IS WITH ALL HUMILITY  
INSCRIBED,

BY HIS GRACE'S MOST OBLIGED,  
MOST DEVOTED,

AND  
MOST HUMBLE SERVANT,  
*CHARLES NALSON COLE.*

TO THE HONORABLE  
JOHN D. BISHOP OF BEDFORD  
Lectures for seven Years or under not to be  
MADE OUT OF THE  
Level your Boundaries there  
London - P. D. Remedy for those who do  
five an interest under the  
Knight of the Most Noble Order

Found in the Advocates of an Unhappily  
 their Manor  
 —May include that called "The Manor"  
 Manor, Lords of the Manor, and the  
 The Body of the Manor was 277  
 Minister of the County and further supply  
 Governor of the Manor, and the Manor

Only the way the  
Owners of the may improve  
Officers to be two of 1883

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TO THE MOST NOBLE  
JOHN DUKE OF BEDFORD  
MARQUIS OF ANNSTOCK &c.

LORD PRIVY SEAL  
Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter

Governor of the Bedford Level Corporation

Charles of the Bedford Level

The Duke (Now Earl) collected together

St. Form'd for the Advancement of the Understanding

A. B. C. D. E. F. G. H. I. J. K. L. M. N. O. P. Q. R. S. T. U. V. W. X. Y. Z.

It was public Utility, and the Happiness of the Nation

St. Form'd by F. R. A. S. C. D. E. F. G. H. I. J. K. L. M. N. O. P. Q. R. S. T. U. V. W. X. Y. Z.

And ever since

It was a Bedfordian principle and practice

By his illustrious predecessors

Is with all Humility

INSCRIBED

BY HIS GRACE'S MOST DEVOTED

MOST DEVOTED

MOST HUMBLE SERVANT

CHARLES WATSON COLE

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A N

**Historical ACCOUNT**

**OF THE**

**CONSTITUTION**

**OF THE**

**Bedford Level Corporation.**

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A N

# Historical Account

The following sheet contains  
the public Acts and Instructions  
which make up the whole of the  
union of the Kingdoms of Great  
Britain, have as their Basis been  
together and printed under the inspection  
their Register; a Work heretofore  
as it seemed to him of the utmost consequence  
that those who had the Government  
in view of an Undertaking, in which the  
rights of the People as well as Individuals  
to highly concerned, should have a Copy  
of those Laws in one Body by which the  
to govern and direct. That Body consists  
a Variety of Laws and Amendments of  
ers public Agreements, Charters of  
ration, Letters to Commissions and  
Parliament; the latter of which being  
met with only in the Statutes at Large  
those too in different Parts of the  
a Work of no small consequence.

A N

## Historical ACCOUNT, &c.

**T**HE following Sheets, containing all the public Acts and Instruments which make up the whole Constitution of the *Bedford* Level Corporation, have at their Desire been collected together and printed under the Inspection of their Register; a Work he readily engaged in, as it seemed to him of the utmost Consequence, that those who had the Government and Direction of an Undertaking, in which the Interests of the Public as well as Individuals were so highly concerned, should have a Collection of those Laws in one Body by which they are to govern and direct. That Body consisting of a Variety of Laws and Adjudications of Sewers, public Agreements, Charters of Incorporation, Returns to Commissions and Acts of Parliament; the latter of which being to be met with only in the Statutes at large, and those too in different Parts of so voluminous a Work; of the former some having been ne-



ver printed, and others long out of Print; these Circumstances taken together have made a Collection of this sort extremely necessary, as without it more labour and Pains would be requisite for the Understanding the Constitution, than can be expected from Gentlemen who voluntarily employ themselves on the sole Motives of public Spirit and Benevolence.——A large Plain or Level consisting of near 400,000 Acres, all which, except some few small Hills, was cover'd with Water, was an Object which from the insular Situation of *Great Britain*, its Nature and Government, could not but at some time or other engage the Attention of the Public, and the particular Care of Individuals. As an Island, Commerce could not but be wove up with the first Principles of its Policy; its Nature and Government could not but carry that Commerce to the Heights it has since gone, and this amongst many other Effects would produce Populoufness; Populoufness as it were out of Gratitude to its Parent Commerce would in return give it all its Assistance, convert every Part of that happy Country it had made its Seat to Advantage, and leave no Spot uncultivated or unemployed, by which it might be enabled to extend its Powers over the whole Globe.—Thus some Centuries ago, by a kind of political Analysis, it might have been shewn, that what hath since happened must have happened; indeed, besides the Motives from Policy

licy already mentioned, there was another which might operate very strongly in obtaining the Favour of the Public and exciting the Spirit of private Men to engage in the Work of draining this great Level.—The Monkish Historians and the Registers of Abbies, represented it as formerly in a very different Situation from what it was at the Time they recorded its History; particularly *William* of *Malmſbury*, who wrote in the Eleventh Century, and who in the Opinion of able Judges is an \* authentic Historian, describes *Thorney* and the County around it as a Representation of the first Paradise. † From whence arose so fatal a Reverse, whether from some great Convulsion of an Earthquake, or whether from the ordinary Course and Progress of Nature, can by no

\* J. Leland Assert. Arthur F. 468. a. D. Hen. Saville in Epist. ded. ad 5 Script. Usher in Epist. ded. ad Eccles. Histinam.

† In ejus (Heliensis dico) Episcopi parochia, est Thorneiæ cœnobium. Thorneia ulterior scripto, et contractior spacio, sed prior laudum Titulo, Paradisi simulacrum, quod amœnitate jam cœlos ipsos imaginetur, in ipsis paludibus arborum ferax, quæ enodi proceritate luctantur ad sydera. Equorea planities herbarum viridantibus comis oculos advocat, currentibus per campum nullus offensionis datur locus. Nulla ibi vel exigua terræ portio vacat, hic in pomiferas arbores terra se subjicit. Hic prætextitur ager vineis, quæ vel per terram repunt, vel per bajulos palos in cœlum surgunt. Multum certamen naturæ et cultus, ut quod obliviscitur illa producat iste. Quid dicetur de ædificiorum decore, quæ solum mirabile quantum inter illas paludes solidum inconcussis fundamentis sustinet?

Will. Malm. De Gestis Pontif. Ang. Lib. 41. Fol. 168. b.

Means be determined; nor have those who have made this Subject their Enquiry, left any thing satisfactory whereby to determine it; but certain it is that these Accounts of what the Level had been were amongst others an Inducement, to engage Men in the Undertaking to recover and drain it. \* *Hondius*, who published *Mercatour's* Geography, mentions Attempts that were made so early as by *John of Gaunt*, and afterward by *Margaret Countess of Richmond*, to recover this Level; but of the History of these no Traces or Memorial is left. The Reign of *Queen Elizabeth* may be properly fixed on as the Period in which the Great Level began to be immediately a public Care. The Strength of Commerce at that time, which, though she was far from being grown up, enabled her to comprehend her own Interests; the great Numbers of ingenious and industrious Foreigners, who flying from the *Low Countries* to avoid the Persecutions of the Duke *D'Alva*, settled themselves in *England*, were kindly received, and enjoyed that Protection where they were not intitled to it, which they could not where they were. A Queen on the Throne, who loved her Subjects, which Love was directed by uncommon Spirit, and great Endowments of Mind; all these, and many other Causes to-

\* Vide *Mercatour's* Geography, called the New Atlas, printed at *Amsterdam* 1636 F. 67.



gether conspired to make this an Age of Discovery and Improvement. The Queen exactly understood the great Consequence so large a Tract of Land, if it could be recovered, was of, rich in its Nature, and whose Produce from its Situation might be easily made subservient to all the Purposes of Commerce. The difficulty of recovering it seem'd by no Means unsurmountable; the intimate connection at that Time between *Holland* and *England*, made all Men easily believe from what many of them had seen, that if Expence and Industry had taken from the Sea, a Seat whereon that great Republic was built, an Expence and Industry not so great would be sufficient to recover from the Sea what they had some reason to think it might have possibly usurp'd.—Therefore in the 20th of *Queen Elizabeth*, a Commission was granted to *Sir Thomas Cecil*, *Sir William Fitzwilliams* and others, the Object of which was the Draining the Fens about *Clowes Cross*; a Return was made to this Commission, but there is no account of any Part of that Plan being carry'd into Execution; the disease affecting the whole Body which was very large, and this being a Remedy calculated to cure only a Part of it, met with the same Success that the like kind of Application doth in the Human Constitution; it might amuse for a Time, but it was impossible it should produce any real Effect, as to the End it was design'd for.

—Those were Times of Sagacity, Men did



not make one Blunder the Foundation whereon to build another, a Mistake set them right—no more Commissions of this Kind issued during this Queen's Reign. An Act of Parliament passed in the 43d Year of Queen *Elizabeth*, on a general Plan for draining the whole Great Level; and indeed it was so general that it comprehended all the Marshes and drowned Lands in *England*;—the Means by which it was to be effected seemed equal to the End, and great Expectations were conceiv'd of its Consequences by those who interest themselves most in the Design;—but all these Hopes were destroyed by a melancholy Event which happened very soon after; the Letter of the Law was left, but that Spirit which was to put it into Execution died with the Queen; her Successor, whose Ideas of his own Abilities induced him to believe that he understood all Kind of Learning Human and Divine, all Kind of Business from that which was transacted in the Cabinet, down to that which is carried on by the Labour of the Peasant in the Field, had sat but a little while on the Throne of *England* before his extensive and busy Knowledge employ'd itself in this Work of recovering the the Great Level: It was the second Year of his Reign that he granted the first Commission for the Purposes of draining it.—The History of the State of this Country for the next seventeen Years, and the several Proceedings for the

Re-

Recovery thereof, cannot but convince the most impartial Examiner, that however transcendant the King's Abilities might be as a Politician, a Scholar, and a Divine, they were by no Means calculated for, or equal to a Work of this Kind. A Multiplicity of Commissions issued; a Variety of Disputes arose between the Commissioners and the Country; Orders were sent from the Privy Council for carrying on particular Works. Letters were wrote by the King himself to the Undertakers, expensive Views were taken of the Country, a general Dissatisfaction arose in all Parties concerned, much was attempted and little executed; these were the Effects of his Royal Favour and Protection.—Dissatisfied at last with those he had employed, and to make Amends for the long and continual Disappointments all Parties concerned had met with, he most graciously condescended himself to be the Undertaker of this great Work;—the Recompence was settled, the Terms were agreed on between his Majesty and the Proprietors; that agreement was carried into a Law, and this Royal Adventurer was on the Eve of beginning his Undertaking. What would have been the Consequences of this Adventure, it cannot be difficult to determine, but they must be left to Conjecture; no one executive Step having been ever taken; for such is the strange reverse of human Affairs, that at the Time the King was meditating

dictating how to obtain a new Country, as it were, for his Subjects, he was called off from that Design to recover an old one for his own Family, out of which they had been expelled.—The ill timed Ambition, and strange Politics of *Frederick* Elector Palatine, who married the Princess *Elizabeth*, Daughter to King *James*, induced him to accept of the Crown of *Bohemia*; for the wearing of which one Year he afterwards paid as a Price his Electoral Dominions, out of which he was driven in Revenge by the Emperor;—he applied to his Father in Law; his Attempts in Consequence of that Application to recover the Palatinate for him, and other political Embarrassments which attended him during the rest of his Reign intirely extinguished his Spirit as an Adventurer:—From this Time nothing seems attempted with any Effect for the Relief of this Country, till the sixth Year of the Reign of King *Charles* the first; at a Sessions of Sewers held that Year at *Lynne*, Sir *Cornelius Vermuyden*, who being born, bred, and having passed most of his Life in *Holland*, well understood the Business of draining, contracted with the Commissioners of Sewers for the draining the Great Level, and was to have for his Recompence 95,000 Acres of the Lands by him to be drained. However agreeable this Contract might be to the Commissioners, yet the Country in general, who were most interested in it, were



were greatly averſe to it, not from the Terms of the Agreement, but from their Objections to the Perſon contracted with; they conſidered Sir *Cornelius* as he was, a Foreigner, and therefore whatever his Character, whatever his Abilities were, this was a ſufficient Objection; they would ſubmit to no Engagements that were made with him. National Prejudices are not to be defended on general and great Rules of Policy; all that can be ſaid is, that theſe were the Prejudices of *Englishmen*,—but with all their Prejudices about them, theſe very Men after having rejected this Foreigner ſhew'd the greateſt Sagacity, in the Perſon whom they fixed on to be their Protector and deliverer.—*Francis* Earl of *Bedford* was at that Time Owner of a large Quantity of this great Level; he was a Nobleman of high Birth, great Rank, and theſe were ſupported by the moſt ample Fortunes,—he was of an Underſtanding clear and penetrating, uſed to and ready in Buſineſs;—of a firmneſs of Mind not to be oppreſſed; an unſhaken Integrity, of which all Men had the higheſt Opinion, and animated by a Principle of public Spirit, which made theſe great and amiable Qualities active in all Matters that tended to the public Good;—to him in the Language of the *Lynne* Law, “ They became humble Sui-  
 “ tors to undertake ſo great and ſo noble a  
 “ Work, ſo much concerning the whole  
 “ Country:



" Country:—A Motion proceeding so freely  
 " from the Country, and seconded by all the  
 " Commissioners present," could not but have  
 the Effect it had on a Heart warmed with a  
 Desire of doing Good ; " his Lordship yielded  
 " and did agree to undertake the said Work."  
 —In consequence of this, on the 13th of *January*  
 in the sixth Year of King *Charles the First*, at  
 a Commission of Sewers holden at *Lynne* in  
*Norfolk*, was made a Law, which for its Ex-  
 cellence hath ever since been called The *Lynn*  
 Law : \* This recites the Agreement made be-  
 tween the Earl of *Bedford* and the Proprietors,  
 which is ratified and confirmed by the Power  
 and Jurisdiction of Sewers, and is in some sort  
 the Foundation of all the Laws relative to the  
*Bedford Level Corporation* :—By this Law the  
 Earl was to have 95,000 Acres of the drained  
 Lands for his Satisfaction on account of the  
 Expence and Hazard such a Work carried  
 with it ; of which 95,000 Acres 40,000 were  
 to be appropriated for continuing and preserv-  
 ing the Work. When the Earl of *Bedford*  
 was the Undertaker of this Work, all Men  
 conceived the greatest Hopes of its Success,  
 they saw that he had a Fortune to contend with  
 the Expence, a Spirit capable of surmounting  
 any Difficulties, and that he, of whom all Men  
 thought well, would by being able to make  
 them think well of each other, reconcile their  
 jarring Interests ;—the whole Country promised  
 their

\* Vide F. 3.

their Assistance; and the next Year thirteen Gentlemen of high Rank, Property and Interest in that Country, offered themselves to become Adventurers with him;—the Earl accepted their Offers, and the Terms of their Agreement are contained in a Deed which is called *The Indenture of Fourteen Parts*; <sup>a</sup>—the Work was instantly begun; Unanimity, Spirit, and Judgment, made up the Characters of the Adventurers; the Success was equal to what such Characters promised; the Royal Favour shone upon this chosen Band, who were enterprizing at their own Expence, for the Happiness of Thousands:—In the tenth Year of his Reign, King *Charles the First* granted the Earl and his Adventurers a Charter of Incorporation, <sup>b</sup> with Privileges which it well became the Crown to grant, because they were granted to those who deserved them. In that Charter are contained Provisions for the Religious and Civil Liberties of those who were to be the Inhabitants of this new Country, and the Earl of *Bedford* is appointed to its Government;—the Charter according to the Usage of those Times is in the *Latin* Tongue;—it is so interesting in its Nature, that for the Sake of those who are not well acquainted with that Language;—the Editor hath accompanied it with an *English* Translation, <sup>c</sup> in which he hath endeavoured to preserve the Sense and Spirit of the Grant, as far as it could be done from the Original, which

<sup>a</sup> Vide F. 23.    <sup>b</sup> Vide 37.    <sup>c</sup> Vide 65.

which is not a Composition remarkable for its Elegance or Propriety of Stile. Warmed by this Beam of Royal Sunshine, the Earl and his Adventurers proceeded with so much Vigour and Spirit, that notwithstanding the great Expence and Hazard that attended the Undertaking, the Work was finished in the thirteenth Year of King *Charles* the First. At a Sessions of Sewers held the twelfth of *October* that Year at *St. Ives* in the County of *Huntingdon*, the Commissioners decreed the great Level drained according to the Intent of the *Lynn* Law, and the 95,000 Acres to be set out as a Recompence for the Earl;—his Majesty's Surveyor General assisted in the Work;—the Lands were set out, a Schedule of the Particulars whereof was framed by the Commissioners, and returned into the Court of Chancery; and nothing was left to be done, but the putting the Earl and his Adventurers into Possession of what they had so dearly earned.—<sup>a</sup> That Law of Sewers makes a material Part of the present Constitution of the *Bedford* Level Corporation, and that <sup>b</sup> Schedule of the Particulars of the Adventurers Land is nearly a Description of the Land that is enjoyed by those claiming under them, subject to such Taxes as are necessary for carrying on the Works for the Preservation of the Great Level.—Those who are the least acquainted with the Annals of *England*, are not to be informed that Resolution was by no Means a Cha-

rac-

<sup>a</sup> Vide F. 93. <sup>b</sup> Vide F. 115.



racteristic of King *Charles* the First; whether  
 from a Dislike to the Earl of *Bedford* who was  
 an utter Enemy to the dangerous Politics of those  
 Times, and was of great Weight with all  
 those who opposed the Paces the King was  
 making towards an Establishment of absolute  
 Government; or whether it was owing to the  
 pressing Exigencies of his Majesty's private  
 Finances, which his unpopular Treasurer, the  
 Bishop of *London*, might think the Measure  
 his Majesty afterwards took might relieve,  
 at this Distance of Time cannot be determined;  
 but certain it is, that very soon afterwards the  
 Disposition of the King towards the Earl and  
 his Adventurers was intirely changed; that  
 King who by his Charter dated the 13th of  
*March* 1635, expressed his highest Approbation  
 of their Proceedings, and granted them all the  
 Privileges which were necessary for carrying  
 on their Undertaking, in less than four Years,  
 by such Means as ill became a King, persec-  
 cuted those very Men he had before so kindly  
 protected, to the almost intire Ruin of the Un-  
 dertaking, and the Destruction of the private  
 Fortunes of most of those who had with so  
 much public Spirit engaged in this Risque;  
 a Commission of Sewers was directed to Offi-  
 cers and Servants of the Crown, and those  
 whom the Court had obliged; who intirely  
 unacquainted with the Business, and as little  
 interested in the Event of it as Strangers could  
 be



be, were to examine into the Proceedings of the Earl and his Adventurers.—They met at *Huntingdon* on the 12th of *April* 1639;—if on so serious a Subject, Gravity did not peculiarly belong to the Manner of treating it, one might be indulged a Smile at the Idea of the first Interview of these Court Judges; those who had figur'd together in a Drawing Room as the Embroidery of a Court, now met together for the first Time in an Alehouse in the Country, as the Tools to be employed in committing an Act of the highest Oppression and Injustice;—they were well instructed in their Business before they set out, which was to traverse the whole of what the *St. Ives* Law had done not above six Months before.—Those Commissioners who met at *St. Ives*, understanding in the Business, unbiaſſed in their Opinions, determined the Work compleat, and adjudged the Earl of *Bedford* and his Adventurers, entitled to the Recompence they adventured for:—These Court Commissioners ignorant of the first Principles of draining, fixed as to their Judgments before they inquired, were to determine the Work incompleat, and put the Earl and his Adventurers under such Difficulties as should make them relinquish the Undertaking, and throw the whole Advantage resulting from it into the Hands of the Crown:—Well as they might have been instructed before they set out, yet such was the Opinion that

that those by whom they were employed entertained of them; that on the 9th of *April*, two Days before they met, a Letter bearing Date on that Day was wrote to them by the High Treasurer the Bishop of *London*, to confirm them in the good Purposes they set out on;—and for fear this should not have its desired Effect, on the 13th which was the Day after they met, the King himself condescended to write to them, and the Royal Signet was prostituted to the Purposes of Oppression and Injustice. It seems by those Letters the King had been much enlightened within the compass of three Days, and he knew that to be a Fact before Examination, which these Commissioners were to make a Fact after they had examined. In those Letters the King declares that, since the Lord Treasurer had sent his Dispatches, he was perfectly well satisfied that the Earl of *Bedford* had not drained the Country, and offers himself to be the Undertaker of the Work. If the Lord Treasurer's Letters warmed the Commissioners in the Purposes they had, they glowed at this strange but Royal Mandate of his Majesty;—they set themselves to work with the greatest Zeal and Ardour, not by Halves, they went roundly through the whole Business.—They began, in Opposition to the *St. Ives* Law, to arraign the Earl of *Bedford's* Conduct; they determined that the Work was incompleat and defective,

b

they

they adjudged the Earl and his Adventurers not to have performed their Contract, and therefore not entitled to their recompence in the Manner it had been contracted for; and with scandalous Adulations, extolling his Majesty's great Goodness in offering to undertake the Work, they most meanly accepted his Proposals with a free will Offering of 57000 Acres more for his princely Care of this distressed Country;—to distress the Earl and his Adventurers they imposed an Arbitrary Tax of 30s. an Acre on the 95,000 Acres amounting in the whole to 142,500*l.* well knowing that, however able the Earl of *Bedford* might be to advance his Share of that Sum, the Circumstances of the rest of the Adventurers, many of whom had been ruined by the Expences already incurred, were by no Means equal to the discharging of such a Tax; and that if they had been so, it could not on any Principle of Calculation have been deemed prudent to advance it on these Terms. They declared his Majesty the Undertaker of the Work, and returned to *London* with all the Self-approbation that attended an Ignorance of the Consequences of what they had been doing. Such Knight Errants in so arduous a Service, could not but receive the highest Approbation from their Employers, his Majesty and the Lord Treasurer.—The Part the Earl of *Bedford* took in that Transaction was like himself, the Nobleness of his Nature scorned an At-



Attention to any Business where the Happiness of Individuals was the immediate Object, when he could employ himself in attempting to procure and establish the Prosperity of a whole Kingdom. And such was his Object whilst the Business of this Court Commission was carried on. King *Charles* had, ever since his coming to the Throne, taken all Opportunities of shewing that his Ideas of Government were very unlike those of his Subjects, who well knowing the first Principles of the Constitution saw what Government should and ought to be.—He had treated Parliaments, as only Ministers of his Power, had called them to dissolve them, when they took on themselves to exercise any of those Powers which the wise Policy of this Constitution hath arm'd them with, and ventured himself even to levy Money without their Concurrence or Interposition. All these Causes and several others well known in History, had been long working to light up that general Flame which afterwards broke out.—The Earl of *Bedford* stood foremost on all Occasions to contend for that true political Liberty which it is the Privilege of this Constitution alone to enjoy:—A Friend to the Prerogative of the Crown, as it was a Part of the Constitution, he constantly opposed all Excesses which arose from carrying it beyond its Bounds, as Encroachments dangerous to the Liberties of the Subject, and at the same Time destructive



of that Prerogative itself. It was on him that on all great Occasions, the Eyes of good Men were turned. The Business of this Court Commission was transacting at a Time, when the Fire was first lighted up in Scotland; there a Rebellion was actually begun and the Country was in Arms:—The fatal Consequences of this no one could pronounce, but they were such as could not but be foreseen to be of the highest Import to the Nation. From this Time to his Death, the Earl was wholly employed in a constant and watchful Attention to whatever might concern the Happiness of these Kingdoms, and this Undertaking engaged no Part of his Care;—he died of the Small Pox on the 9th of May 1641, and as Cicero saith of Hortensius, "*Cessit e vita, suo magis, quam suorum civium tempore, et tum occidit, cum lugere facilius Rempublicam posset, si viveret, quam juvare; vixitq; tamdiu, quam licuit in civitate bene, beateque, vivere.*"<sup>a</sup> The golden Dreams of his Majesty and his High Treasurer, of the Resources that might have been drawn from his Undertaking the Draining of this Country, could never have been realiz'd, let what would have happened; but the general Confusion and Distraction which soon after followed, prevented them from making any of those Experiments, which the Zeal of the Commissioners had paved the Way for. What afterwards happened to the King was a Scene of Warfare and Imprisonment; he

<sup>a</sup> De Claris oratoribus. Cicero, Olivet, Tom. 1. P. 337.

he lost his Kingdoms, and with them his Life. Amidst these great and weighty Concerns the Undertaking he had been so earnest to engage in, seems to have been totally forgot. The Works that the Earl of *Bedford* and his Adventurers had made, at so great an Expence, went to decay, their Drains were growing up, and the whole was running into as distressful a Condition as it was before they undertook it. *Francis Earl of Bedford* was succeeded by his Eldest Son *William*;—the Part he acted in the High Concerns of those Times was such as might be expected from the Son of so noble and great a Father. As long as those who opposed the Crown, professed that Opposition, and seemed to carry it on, upon true constitutional Principles, and merely to preserve the just Ballance of the several Orders of Government, he was most Zealous and active in concurring with them;—he risked his Life and his Fortune in the Service;—but when he found that they meant more than he did, and that which he had the greatest Hatred to, a Subversion of all Government,—he instantly quitted the Parliament's Service, and went to the King; there too he was disappointed; For finding that wise and moderate Councils were not the Growth of the Court, and that the Meaning of those who had the chief Influence there was not what it should be, after having been persecuted by the Parliament even to the

Loss of his Liberty and the Sequestration of his Estate, and that Persecution taken off without any Application from himself, for he nobly disdained to give that Countenance to their Usurpation which would have arose from any Treaty with them, he retired to his own Estate, — ever watchful and ready to come out if any Opportunity offered of promoting the Essential Establishment of these Kingdoms. A more amiable Picture cannot be conceived than this Great Man in his Retirement, where Providence seems to have laid him up as in a Harbour of Safety, and to have preserved his Life to be an Instrument in bringing about those great Events which afterwards happened, and which were the greatest Blessings this Country ever enjoyed; for such must the Restoration and the Revolution ever be looked upon, and in both which he had a considerable Share. — In this Retirement excluded by the said Circumstances of the Times from all Opportunity of advancing the present Interests and Prosperity of these Kingdoms, his benevolent and compassionate Nature looked down with Pity on the Distresses of the ruined Adventurers, as if a Love for that then miserable Country had descended to him from his Father amongst the many and noble Inheritances he enjoy'd from him. He declared a Disposition to assist and countenance them; they embraced his Offers; those of the Adventurers who were left with the several



ral Parties interested in the Country, applied to the Assembly at *Westminster*, which was then called the Parliament, for their Sanction.— That Assembly examined all former Proceedings, they declared null and void the extraordinary Proceedings of the Court Commissioners at *Huntingdon*, and placed the whole Management of the Level, under the Direction of the Earl of *Bedford*, on the general Plan of the *Lynn Law*,—that Earl of *Bedford*, who when his own Liberty and Fortune was at Stake, disdained making any Application to this unconstitutional Assembly, yet when the Happiness of thousands, who were distressed, presented itself to him as an Object, condescended for their Sakes to Act under their Authority,—a rare Instance, and which could only flow from the most benevolent Heart. This Act is called the pretended Act of Parliament, and passed in the Year 1649. \*From this Time the Undertaking proceeded with wonderful Success;—the Earl and his Adventurers repaired the decayed Works, made new ones, and that Country hath been ever since making a regular Progress towards the Perfection it is arrived at in its present happy State,— Soon after the Restoration, and when such general Business of the State necessary on such an Event had been gone through, the Earl of

V. F. 241.



*Bedford* set about a Business which he had much at Heart, as it was of the utmost Consequence to the whole Great Level of the Fens. This was the obtaining an Act of Parliament to ratify and confirm what had been done in consequence of the *Lynn Law* and the pretended Act of Parliament; to make the Adventurers a Corporation, and form such a System of Laws for the Government thereof, as might be best calculated to promote all the Ends intended by such an Establishment.—A Bill for this Purpose was brought into Parliament in the 15th Year of King *Charles the Second*, and after as much Consideration as ever was given to any Bill brought into Parliament, was that Year passed into a Law.<sup>a</sup>—Those who read that Act, knowing the Principles on which it was founded, and the Ends proposed to be attained by it, cannot but admire it as one of the most perfect Instances of the Wisdom and Abilities of the Legislature, that the extensive Statute Laws of this Country can furnish;—and this Observation is well warranted by the very few Questions, that in the Course of near 100 Years have arose thereon.—If, as the great Lord Bacon declares in that most admired Performance of his, entitled *Exemplum tractatus de Justitia universali*,<sup>b</sup> that the first Excellencies of

<sup>a</sup> Vide Journals of the House of Commons, Vol. 8. P. 348, 51, 56, 58, 66, 92, 400, 3, 8, 16, 17, 26, 28, 29, 35, 47, 53, 82, 84, 97, 500, 5, 12, 32. <sup>b</sup> Lord Bacon's works, Vol. 1. P. 249.

a Law is Certainty, from the Consequences already mentioned this hath a fair Right to claim that Priority amongst the Laws of this Country which the Editor hath given it.—In that Act of Parliament the Adventurers are made a Corporation to have Succession for ever; the Manner of their Continuance is prescribed, their Powers are declared, the whole 95,000 Acres, which was the Recompence for the Work of draining, are made subject to Taxes to be annually laid and raised, for the Support and Maintenance of the Works of the Level. The publick Meetings of the Corporation are fixed, and the Business of those Meetings directed: To recite it, is to set forth its Excellence, but as it is printed in this Collection, that would be an unnecessary Repetition. Thus the Editor hath trac'd this Undertaking from its Infant State through the several Stages of its Progress, till it arrived to Maturity, under the Act of the 15th of King *Charles* the Second; which he hath endeavoured to do with the utmost Conciseness and Impartiality, and in which is contained the Political History of the Institution of the several Laws that were made on this Account to that Period. The Act of the 15th of *Car.* 2. with all its Excellencies, was not without its Imperfections; all human Laws have them, and those only are the best

which have fewest; but it must be said that these Imperfections were such as could not be foreseen, for they were to be discovered by Experience only. The 15th of King *Charles* the Second, had given the Corporation a general Power of Taxing, but not prescribed the Form or Manner in which that Power was to be executed.—Under that Act, the Taxes were laid by Way of an Acre Tax, so that the same specific Tax was laid for every Acre; this was found to be a Tax of great Inequality; for as those Lands differed much in Value, whilst the Produce of the best enabled those who own'd them to pay the Taxes imposed on them, the worst were taxed at almost as much as they were intrinsically worth. This was soon discovered, and the Tax was altered to a gradual Acre Tax of five different Sorts, and the Lands taxed in Proportion to their Value; but this Remedy was not adequate to the Evil complained of; for the different Value of the Lands was not ascertained, and five Sorts were not sufficient in Number to procure the desired Effect of Equality in Taxing: The Adventurers under the Protection of their Governor the Earl of *Bedford* applied again to Parliament to settle this difficult Matter, and to make some few farther Amendments in the Policy of their Constitution, such as Time and Experience had shewn to be necessary;—but the great Object of that Application was to pro-



procure an Equality of Taxes;—their Application was kindly received, and the Legislature gave them all the Assistance they wanted; Commissioners were appointed from amongst Gentlemen of known Abilities and Integrity in the Country, to survey the Adventurers Land, to sort, divide, and rate it;—they proceeded in the Work with Unanimity and Dispatch; they surveyed, sorted it into eleven Degrees, made their Return;—the Adventurers acquiesced in it; and according to that Survey<sup>a</sup>, which, together with the Act of the 20th of King *Charles* the Second, <sup>b</sup> appointing the Commissioners, is contained in the following Collection, the Adventurers Lands have been taxed ever since. To the Honour of those Commissioners it should be remembered, that their Sagacity and Impartiality shewn in the Execution of this Trust was such, that it hath been confirmed by the Judgments and Opinions of all Men who have had any Concerns in this Country ever since; and there is not in general at present any surer Way of determining the intrinsic Value of the Lands in the *Bedford* Level, than by an Application to that Survey, where their proportional Values are almost exactly ascertained. The Act of the 15th of King *Charles* the Second, had given Lords of Manors and Commoners a Power to inclose and divide their Commons;—this was

<sup>a</sup> F. 341.<sup>b</sup> F. 323.



certainly well meant for the Improvement of the Country; but the best Provisions may be made use of for the worst of Purposes.—In pursuance of this Power the Lords did inclose and divide their Commons, and the several Commoners had their respective Shares assigned to their commonable Houses; ~~but it~~ was afterwards found, that by this Provision, and the Use that was made of it, the Country instead of being improved, would be much distressed; for the Commoners sold their respective Shares annexed to their commonable Houses, dissipated the Money, by which there was an Increase of Poor, who were to be maintained at a great Expence;—the Corporation applied to Parliament for a Repeal of that Clause; the Parliament confirmed the Inclosures and Divisions already made, on particular Conditions, and repealed that Clause so as to prevent any Thing of that sort being attempted for the Future; and this was the Alteration made by the First of King *James* the Second; <sup>a</sup> this was the last Amendment that was made in the Constitution of the *Bedford* Level Corporation, during the Life-Time of *William* Duke of *Bedford*, who in the Year 1700 died full of Age and Honour, having been advanced to the highest Rank by King *William* which the Crown can bestow on the most deserving Subjects; la-

<sup>a</sup>V. F. 379.

mented by all good Men, but by none more than those whose Interests he with so much Spirit and Benevolence had advanced, patronized, and protected during a Course of Fifty-one Years in the *Bedford* Level.

In the private Walks of Life it is often remarked, that the Son thinks and acts exactly as his Father did before him.—Where Families supported by their Abilities and Consequence have their Histories read in a Nation's Eye, and remembered; there this Similitude of Character is seen at different and very distant Periods; and after Generations are past and gone, those who have long slept with their Fathers, arise as it were and present themselves again on the great Stage of the World. And could the great *Francis* Earl of *Bedford*, like the pious *Æneas*, have been blessed with reviewing his Posterity, had he seen,

*Russelia de Gente Nepotes,*

*Illustres animas, nostrumque in nomen ituras; \**

with what Pleasure would he have beheld the great Personages that were to descend from him; and how amply would that desire of being remembered to the latest Times been gratified by a Prospect of living again, as it were,

\* *Æneid*, Lib. 6. L. 777, 778.

in the Middle of the 18th Century, in the Character of his most noble and illustrious descendant *John Duke of Bedford*! when he had beheld him filling the first great Offices of the State to the general Satisfaction of all good Men, and given the Sanction of his entire Approbation, to the several Parts he had acted in the Service of the Nation,—He would with a benevolent Pleasure have viewed his kind Care and Attention to that which was the Work of his own Hands, and acknowledge the Protection and Countenance he extended to the *Bedford Level Corporation*, as a pious and gratefull Tribute to his own Memory.

The Corporation having undergone no Alterations in its Constitution for more than half a Century; the Duke of *Bedford* who perfectly comprehends its several Interests, and is no less zealous in promoting than he is able in understanding them, thought it highly necessary that such Amendments should be made in it, as Alteration of Circumstances, Extent of Commerce, and the Consequences of public Credit being form'd into a System might require. The Great Level had been divided so early as the Year 1697 into three Districts, and Names assign'd to each District.—This Division was certainly well meant by those who made it.—But as in great States it often happens, that Names give Birth to Parties, so in this lesser they had in some sort the same Effect,——  
when



when that which had always been called the *Bedford* Level, a Name which comprehended the whole Country, was canton'd into the three Districts of the *North* Level, the Middle Level and the *South* Level, then first arose Ideas of separate Interests, and the Proprietors of the Lands in each District, began to consider the Interest of his own District as distinct from and independent of the other;—strange Mistake, and founded only in Names! for the three Levels are all the Children of one common Parent draining, and as such have one common Interest;—their real Divisions may destroy them all, and like a natural Family their Strength arises from their Union.—Whatever Foundation this Reflection may have in Truth and Fact, yet after this Division, the Case was as it is represented; and it was carried so far, that during a Minority in the *Bedford* Family the *North* Level was in a great Measure totally alienated from the other two. And in the Year 1753, on stating the Account, the Middle and *South* Level were indebted to the Duke of *Bedford* and the Earl of *Lincoln*, as principal Proprietors of the *North* Level, on account of that Level, to the Amount of more than 18000*l.* a Sum which they could not possibly pay, though the Debt arose on a most solemn Contract, and was attended with all the Circumstances of Equity and Justice, that accompanies the fairest Transactions. The Duke  
of



of *Bedford* saw the fatal Consequences this great Debt, which was still encreasing, might bring down on the other two Levels; he saw it with that concern which arose from his general Affection for the whole Country, he understood the Disease, and soon provided the Remedy. In the 27th Year of King *George* the Second, under his Countenance and Protection, the *Bedford* Level Corporation applied to Parliament, the Sum of, 14750*l.* was due to the Duke of *Bedford*, and 3150*l.* to the Earl of *Lincoln*; the Duke of *Bedford* most generously remitted the whole of his Debt, and the Security was cancell'd; the Earl of *Lincoln* as generously concurred with him in this Measure, and by the *North* Level Act, this Transaction received the Sanction of Parliament. In that Act the several Accounts between the Levels themselves, and between the Levels and the Creditors of the Corporation are settled, and such Provisions made, as will entirely prevent any thing of the same Kind from ever happening again. For which Purpose, the *North* Level is separated from the other two in such Particulars, as might hereafter be to their Disadvantage, but connected with them in those Instances, where such a Connection can only operate for the good of the whole Country. Such is the Object of that Act of Parliament which is called the *North* Level Act, so far as it relates to the *Bedford* Level Corporation.

There

There are farther Provisions in that Act for the Purposes of draining the *North Level*, and for taking other Lands which adjoin to it, into a general Plan of draining; the whole is printed in this Collection; for though the latter Part of that Act of Parliament doth not any way affect the Constitution of the *Bedford Level* Corporation; yet the Editor thought it of great Consequence, to present to the Publick the whole thereof, as containing the most compleat System of that Kind of Policy, on which the modern Acts for draining are founded, of any that hath yet received the Sanction of the Legislature.

From the first Accounts of draining this Country, there seems to have been always a mutual Jealousy between those who were concerned in carrying on the Navigation thro' the Great Level, and those whose immediate Object was the work of draining. Those whose Business and Livelihood arose from being Carriers by Water, were never satisfied with, nor even thought they would have enough of their favourite Element, and seem to have been afraid that the Rivers themselves would have been reduced to dry Land; whilst those who proposed the Recovery and Preservation of this Country, meant only to confine those Rivers within their proper Bounds; and always suspected that the Navigators would, as much as in them lay, prevent that. Hence

the Preservation of Navigation makes a Part of the Policy of the Laws for promoting the Purposes of draining. The Cause of their Jealousies, like many others, had no real Foundation in Facts, and arose from a partial View of that which was the Subject of it; whereas in Truth there is an Alliance between Draining and Navigation in the Great Level; it is a natural one, founded in Reason, and cemented by the strongest Ingredient that can make Alliances permanent, the true Interest of the several Parties concerned: Where was the Navigation through this Country, what was it before the draining was attempted?—It could be carried on in some Parts only in small Fishing Boats; in others where the Rivers were, it must be very uncertain and very expensive. There were no Banks to be made use of in Haling, and in general the Success of the Voyage depended on the Winds, and the labour of Mens Hands. A Dependence which those who are the least acquainted with the Nature of an Inland Navigation, must readily admit would prevent its being carried to any great Height, however other Circumstances might concur that would assist it. But there is another Question which may be asked, and to which it will be difficult to give such an answer, as may refute the Point the Editor is contending for. For what Purposes could that Navigation be carried on? What was the



the Nature of the Trade, to which it was to be subservient? The Inhabitants, whose Lot was thrown in this then miserable Country, had few Wants, as their Means of supplying them were very scanty. Luxury was an Idea they had not acquired, and their Wishes never carried them beyond a Desire of those Things, without which Life cannot subsist. But when the Adventurers had drained the Country, when in Consequence of that, it was peopled, when the Labour and Industry of the Inhabitants in tilling the Ground, was rewarded by bounteous Harvests; when in the sublime Language of sacred Writ *this great Valley stood so thick with Corn, that it did laugh and sing*; when the prophetic Part of the Charter of Incorporation, granted by King Charles the First, was fulfill'd, "that in those Places, which lately presented nothing to the Eyes of the Be-  
 " holders but great Waters, and a few Reeds  
 " thinly scattered here and there, under the  
 " Divine Mercy would be seen pleasant Pastures  
 " of Cattle and Kine, and many Houses be-  
 " longing to the Inhabitants."—Then it was that Navigation might have perceiv'd the Advantages that arose from its Alliance with the landed Interest, whose Object was draining. That Navigation was then first employed in carrying the Riches of this Country, either into the Inland Parts of this Kingdom, or to their Sea Ports, from whence it was carried all over the Globe;



the Returns that were made for what was carried out, produced Plenty at Home; that Plenty soon introduced a sort of Luxury, which was no longer contented with the Necessaries of Life; and this established Commerce, a large Share of the Advantage of which, accrued to those who carried on the Navigation. Then too it was, that the Adventurers beholding the several little Fleets, that traversed the different Parts of this Country, freighted with its Produce, should with Wonder and Gratitude have acknowledged their Obligations to those, by whose kind Assistance they first became as it were a commercial People, and without whom in vain had they drained the Country, in vain had they till'd the Ground. Such might have been, such ought to have been, the kind Dispositions of these two Interests towards each other; — but Prejudice interfered, Obstinacy that constant Attendant on Prejudice lent her Aid, and the Suggestions of Reason passed by unnoticed. But however unnoticed Reason's Suggestions were, yet length of Time and Experience, those grand Specificks for the cure of all Prejudices, have convinc'd the several Parties concerned, of the Truth of what hath been above advanced. Draining and Navigation, at last have found out the natural Connection there is between them; they have found out and acknowledged their mutual Dependence. — The Duke of *Bedford* whose Ob-

servation

servation suffers nothing to pass unnoticed  
 that may tend to the Happiness of the Great  
 Level, having discovered these Dispositions,  
 soon availed himself of them, to the great  
 Advantage of all the several Interests concerned.  
 Whatever Mechanical Advantage the Navi-  
 gation of this Country had received by the  
 Works of the Adventurers; though the Rivers  
 by being contained within their Banks, had in  
 some Places been so much deepened, as to ad-  
 mit the Passage of Vessels of greater Burthen  
 than had before been us'd; though these Banks  
 were of the greatest Advantage, serving as  
 Roads by the Sides of Rivers for the Horses  
 which draw the Boats along to pass; though  
 Sluices had been built for draining, which  
 much improved the Navigation; yet no Tolls  
 had ever been paid, no Acknowledgments made  
 by the Navigators, for the Assistance which  
 they received from the great and expensive Works  
 of the Adventurers; — the Equity and Jus-  
 tice of the Payment of such Tolls, were suffi-  
 ciently understood, were established and settled  
 by the Charter of Incorporation granted by King  
 Charles the First; though it doth not appear  
 that any Payments were made in Consequence  
 thereof; Navigation was then in its In-  
 fancy; the Tolls had they been paid, at that  
 Time perhaps were scarce worth the Expence  
 that would have attended their Collection; and  
 the subsequent Dispositions of the King, to

*Francis Earl of Bedford* and the rest of the Adventurers, manifested at *Huntingdon*, cast a Cloud on that Charter from which it never after emerged, though it is still a subsisting Charter, and in as full Force now as when it was granted, except in such Parts of it as have been altered by the Interposition of the Legislature.

Be that as it may, such were the kind Dispositions of those whose Object was the Preservation of the Great Level by draining, and those who carried on the Navigation through the same towards each other, when the Duke of *Bedford* first undertook to obtain for the Country, those Advantages which might result therefrom.

There is a very considerable Navigation carried on through the Great Level from the Port of *Lynn* up into *Huntingtonshire* and *Northamptonshire*, by which the Inhabitants of these and the adjacent Counties, are furnished with many of the Necessaries as well as Luxuries of Life, owing to a coasting Trade and foreign Commerce. This Navigation is carried on through the River *Nene*. That Part of it which lays within the Boundaries of the Great Level, was in many Places fitted up and decayed, so that it was with great Difficulty and Expence that the Voyages were performed. Those who carried on the Navigation, and those who used this River as a Drain to carry off their Waters, applied



plied to the *Bedford Level* Corporation to deepen and scower it out. That Corporation saw the Necessity of the Work, acknowledged the Utility of it, but at the same Time confessed their Inability to undertake it, at so great an Expence as such a Work must amount to, which would either exhaust the Provisions made for the Maintenance of their General Works, or engage them in contracting a large Debt, which in the End would be of dangerous Consequences to the other Parts of the Great Level.—In this Situation were Things, when a Treaty was set on Foot by the Duke of *Bedford*, between the *Bedford Level* and those who carried on and were Principals interested in the Navigation. The Corporation of *Lynn* took the Lead on Behalf of the Merchants, and were assisted by the Honourable Mr. *Horace Walpole*, now Lord *Walpole of Wolterton* and Sir *John Turner*, Bart. at that Time their Representatives in Parliament, who manifested great Sagacity, Candour, and Diligence in the Part they acted for the common Good. Plans, Memorials, and Papers of different Kinds passed between the two Corporations, but there were some Points of Nicety and Difficulty which, notwithstanding the good Dispositions that both Parties brought with them to this Treaty, remain unsettled. To surmount these Difficulties, the Duke of *Bedford* himself went down into the Country, and with other Members of



the *Bedford Level Corporation*, in the Summer of the Year 1753, met a Committee of the *Lynn Corporation* at *Huntington*, where all the Matters in difference were maturely considered, and the general Outlines for an Act of Parliament were drawn.—The several Parties interested, well pleased with each other, agreed to apply to Parliament at the ensuing Sessions to obtain their Sanction for what they agreed would be so much for the mutual Benefit of Draining and Navigation. In pursuance of which, at the Meeting of the Parliament, a Bill was brought in, and was carried through both Houses with the greatest Unanimity and Success. This Act of Parliament is called the *Nene Act*. The Policy of that Law is, by Tolls laid on the Navigation, to raise a Fund, for scowering out and deepening the River *Nene* in such a Manner, that both the Ends of Draining and Navigation may be thereby answered.—For this Purpose the Corporation of *Bedford Level* renounce the general Powers they had over this River and its Banks by the 15th of *Car. 2.* the Maintenance and Preservation whereof is placed under the Care and Management of Commissioners.—And such Commissioners are appointed for carrying the Act into Execution, as from their several Interests therein

may

may be supposed to be most able and zealous in advancing the Ends for which it was obtained. This is the first and only Act of this Kind which hath yet passed; an Act which those, who understand the several Interests of the Great Level, and the Navigation through it, look upon as a happy Presage of what may on the same Principle be expected hereafter. There are many considerable Navigations through the Great Level, but from the ouzy Nature of the Soil of the Beds of those Rivers, from the consequence of the Land-floods which go thorough the same to Sea, and which not passing thorough the general Outfall so fast as they come to it, stagnate for some Time and leave the Silt and Soil which they bring with them at the Bottoms of the Rivers; from these Causes those Navigations are not now so good as they formerly were.—In a Course of Time the Rivers must grow up to such a Degree, that though they may serve as Drains for the Country, they cannot be made use of for carrying on the Navigation. Before these Difficulties begin to act with their full Force, it may be hoped that this great Example of the *Nene* Act will be attended to, and that the Navigators will again co-operate with the *Bedford* Level Corporation in uniting their Efforts to remedy the Mischief.—To induce them to this, let them consider the great Advantages they have received, for near a Century, from the Banks of the

the *Bedford* Level Corporation, which have been Roads for their Horses to hale on. Let them consider the great Damages these Banks have sustained thereby, and that they have not contributed at all to their Repair. Let them look back on former Times, and observe the Difference of the Burthens of the Vessels that were made use of in those Times and these, and the Weight, Strength, and Number of Horses which are in consequence thereof employed;—They may now, which they never had before, have an Opportunity of seeing the Constitution of the *Bedford* Level Corporation and its Policy at one View; they will find that the Members of that Corporation, are Trustees not for Navigation but Draining; that they are not to obstruct Navigation, but that they are not warranted to dispose of their Revenue solely in promoting it. That if, from the Course and Order of Nature, that Navigation is decaying, they may sit still and observe it, till that decay affects Draining; then those for whom they are Trustees may call upon them, but not before, and then can only call on them so far as shall satisfy the Ends of Draining;—but what will satisfy Draining will not satisfy Navigation, the Converse of this Proposition is true as to Draining. These Considerations attended to, together with the natural Alliance there is between Navigation and Draining, can the Navigators hesitate a Moment if called on

to



to follow the Example of the *Nene* Act, where Circumstances are or may be similar? On Principles of Prudence and Justice they cannot, and from what hath happened they have already shewn their Dispositions in these Times to adopt no other Principles.

Commerce in its Infancy was carried on by Exchange, because in that State of it few were the Articles of which it consisted, few were the Merchants who were concerned in it. It appears from the Accounts of the Inland Traffick of *Africa*, that the Moors exchange their Salt for Gold;—a Heap of Salt is put upon the Ground, near it a Heap of Gold; if of the two Heaps that are valued against each other, the supposed Value of one exceeds that of the other, something is taken from the Gold, or the Heap of Salt is increased till they are brought to such an Equality, as the Merchants concerned are satisfied with, and each Party carries away with him what he hath thus received in Exchange.—As Commerce encreases, Exchange decreases, the Variety of Articles of which it consists are too bulky to be carried about, and such Carriage would be attended with an Expence inconsistent with the economical Rules which are of its Essence. Hence some fixed portable Sign of the Value of Merchandize in general was to be found out, and Money was introduced in Commerce as that portable Sign;—but Money consisting principally



ty of two Metals, of which there is only a certain Quantity current at any given Time, Commerce may so encrease that there may not be a sufficient Quantity of those Metals to represent the whole Quantity of Objects that are in Commerce.—This Defect in the General Sign introduced Credit;—Credit in its Infancy was that mutual Confidence which one Merchant had in another, that on his Promise, in Consideration of Merchandize by him received, he would at a future Time give a certain Quantity of Money for what he had so received.—This Transaction was founded on a Principle of Honour, and its Advantages in Commerce were soon perceived;—but this Credit was personal only between two, and serv'd only the two Parties concerned in it.—This put Men upon carrying it farther, which was done by reducing this Engagement into Writing, which besides the Advantage that arises from the Certainty and Evidence of the Agreement, had a farther one of making the Credit assignable, and this seems to be the Origin of that Paper Credit, which now exists in so many different Modes, and is the Basis on which the great Commerce of the Globe is at present carried on. On this Principle of Invention of a Sign that stands for Credit, and that being assignable from one to another, the national Debt exists with so much Security and Ease to the Publick and its Creditors. On this Principle the great

great trading Companies of this Kingdom carry on their commercial Business, whilst those possessed of their assignable Securities, can either keep them, or convert them into Money, and find no Inconvenience from such a Mode of Property.—To this same Principle are owing the great publick Improvements in the Roads, Navigation and Harbours of this Kingdom; for it is on this Principle that the Funds necessary for such Improvements have been raised, as without it the Money required for the Original Outset could never have been supplied, and this Country had still remained without those Advantages which are of the utmost Consequence to it as a trading Country.—This Principle is so much in common Use, and so wove up into all publick Transactions, that if we could now suppose a new Body erected, whose Object was Improvement, Commerce, or any such End as publick Bodies are formed for, that Sums of Money were to be borrowed for such Ends; unless the Security or Mark of Credit was assignable, the Embarrassment and Difficulties that would arise from such a shackle in their Constitution, would be attended with great Mischief, and in the End prevent their arriving at that flourishing State, which might otherwise be expected with some Degree of Certainty from an established Credit, Ability and Integrity in its several Members.

How-

However digressive the Editor may seem to have been, yet he flatters himself, that the Propriety of what he hath said will appear when the Principles are applied to the Policy of an Act of Parliament which passed in the 27th of the late King, and which is called the Bond Act. From the Nature of the Operations of Draining, an annual Sum necessary for the ordinary Support of the Works, after they are finished, may be nearly calculated;—but no Calculation can be made with any Degree of Certainty of the Expences, that may arise from the extraordinary Accidents to which those Works are liable;—the Enemies to be contended with, are the Elements of Water and Air; and though when the Rivers glide gently in their Course, attended by Wind Breezes to their Outfall, the Adventurers in Draining may look on with Pleasure and Security; yet are they always indulged with this flattering Prospect? Floods and Tempests will have their Turn, level the strongest Banks, and in a Moment, as it were, lay waste whole Countries, and leave not the least Traces of the Industry and Improvement, which have been exerted and made by Generations.—These melancholy Events to which all flat Countries are liable, make it impossible to calculate with Certainty the Expences of Draining; and therefore wherever the Fund for these Expences is stated and fixed, it must happen that the Repairs of these Accidents will



require Sums of Money, which the ordinary Course of the Revenue will not supply; add to this, that the Art of Draining receiving great Assistance from Experience, new and expensive Works may in a Course of Time be thought necessary, which will still make the general Expence more uncertain. Soon after the Act of the 15th of Car. 2. the *Bedford Level* Corporation, having by that Act a common Seal, made use of that Seal for borrowing Money either for repairing of Breaches in their Banks, or for such new Works as the Judgment of those concerned therein thought necessary. They gave Bonds to their Creditors, and paid the Interest out of their annual Taxes;—those Bonds were paid off by borrowing Money of new Creditors, to whom new Bonds were made when the old were cancelled. Whoever reads and considers that Act of Parliament, cannot well entertain a Doubt, but that the Corporation Creditors could not obtain any Satisfaction for their Debts at Law, but the Goods or Lands the Corporation were possessed or seised of at the Time their Demands were recovered. The legal Estate of the 95000 Acres, on which the Taxes were to be laid for the Maintenance and Support of the Level, were by such Conveyances as the Act of Parliament directs, vested in the respective Members of the Corporation to whom they were conveyed, in their natural Capacity, liable to such Taxes. At Law there-  
fore



fore the Creditors had no Remedy for the Recovery of their Debts, except from the Goods or Lands of the Corporation, which was a very inadequate Security. This Question considered on Principles of Equity, appears more favourable on the Behalf of the Creditors;—the Money borrowed by the Corporation under their common Seal, was applied for the Support and Preservation of the Level, whereby the Proprietors of the 95000 Acres were eased from Taxes to that Value, which must otherwise have been laid on them for that Purpose; and had there been any occasion for it, it might have been worth the Creditors While to have applied to the Court of Chancery, and made an Experiment whether that Court would not have obliged the Corporation to execute the Powers they had by that Act of taxing the 95000 Acres for its Support and Preservation, by laying a Tax thereon for the Payment of such Debts as were contracted for that Purpose, and the Moneys borrowed so applied. Thus even in the Infancy of this Corporation, their Credit, by no Provisions being made for it, being somewhat Problematical, fatal Consequences might have arose from this Defect; but those who were well attached to the Undertaking, furnished them with such Sums as were wanted. In Process of Time, those who remembered the original Undertaking being dead, and that Credit which arose from their

Par-

Partiality being at an End, the Corporation were forced, as it were, to go out into the World with their Credit. Great Sums were at different Times paid for procuring Money, and great Expences were incurred by the constant Exchange of Securities, which arose from their not having such a Credit as was assignable at Market. On a Review of the Necessities of the Corporation, and the Nature of their Credit, one cannot help wondering at its Support, under the many Trials it hath undergone. This can only be accounted for from the illustrious Personages who have been Governors of the Body, that Credit hath been principally supported by the *Bedford* Family, who have always been most ready, when call'd upon, to advance such Sums as were necessary for their pressing Exigencies and Demands. Large Sums have been advanced by them, the Times and Manner of the Payment of which have been left to the Corporation when it should best suit their Finances; Instances of this beneficent Protection occur frequently in the Journals of their Proceedings, and *Wriothesly* late Duke of *Bedford*, left them by his last Will, as a noble Mark of his Affection for the Great Level, a Legacy of Two thousand five hundred Pounds; he died young, and was not above four Years Governor of the Corporation; but by this Instance of his Bounty he shew'd that benevolent Regard for that Country, which makes a Part

of their great Characters from whom he was descended.

This was the general State and Nature of the Corporation Credit. By the *North Level* Act, which separates that Part of the Level from the other two as to Matters of Revenue, the Account of the proportional Share of the general Debt of the Corporation, which the Proprietors of the *North Level* should sustain, is settled, and a Fund created for the Payment of it; and the Proprietors of that Level stand totally discharged from the Remainder of the Debt then owing, or which should afterwards be contracted on account of the other two Levels. This was done with the unanimous Consent of all the Creditors. The Account thus stated and settled, there remained a Debt due of 28,400*l.* on account of the Middle and *South Levels*. The Revenues of the Corporation, and the State of their Finances having undergone a Review in Parliament; and that which was the Foundation of the original Credit being narrowed by the Consent of the Creditors themselves, the Duke of *Bedford* thought it highly proper that all former Doubts concerning that Credit should be taken away, that it should receive a Parliamentary Sanction, and have the Advantage in common with that of other publick Bodies of being assignable. On these Principles of Tenderness to the Creditors, and good Policy to the Constitution of the Corporation,



poration, this being the only material Defect therein, a Bill was brought into Parliament, and pass'd in the 29th Year of his late Majesty's Reign;—by that Act a Fund is established for the Payment of the Creditors, ample for its Object, and so sacred as to its Application, that the Corporation are restrain'd from ever breaking in upon it, to their Prejudice. A Guard is placed against the Corporation's ever extending their Credit, beyond the proper Limits of the Fund that is to answer it; for the specific Sum, which they may borrow, and beyond which they cannot go, is settled. The old Bonds are to be exchange'd for new, and their new Bonds are made assignable without Stamps; these are the great Outlines of that Act of Parliament, by which already large Sums have been sav'd to the Corporation which heretofore were us'd to be paid for procuring Money, the Expence of making out new Bonds or the Change of Creditors prevented, and the Credit of the Corporation put on as respectable and solid a Foundation, as it is possible for Credit to have.

Thus the Editor hath gone through the History of the several Alterations made in the Constitution of the *Bedford Level Corporation*, since the Death of *William Duke of Bedford*, and brought it down from the Beginning to the present Time. He hath endeavoured to represent Facts as they are, and only such Facts



as are necessary for the better understanding the Frame and Policy of the Laws he hath published. He hath collected these Facts from general Histories, Proceedings of Commissioners of Sewers, Records, and Papers which belong to the Corporation; he hath been assisted too by a Collection of Papers, printed as well as Manuscript, collected by Lord *Oxford*, now in the Possession of the Right Honourable the Earl of *Kinnoul*, and which that noble Lord lent him with a Politeness and Literary Benevolence, which makes a Part of a very amiable Character.

In the Course of these last twenty Years there have been many Acts of Parliament obtain'd by Proprietors of Lands in the Great Level, for draining separate Districts; but by these no Alteration is made in the Constitution of the Corporation; for they all contain a Clause, reserving the Powers of the Corporation as established by the 15th of *Charles* the Second.

These Acts are upon this Account omitted by the Editor in this Collection, which if it is found as useful as those who have directed it, with Reason expect it will be, he may be induc'd to publish all those Acts together, with a prefatory Account of their Policy; in which will come under Consideration the Nature of the original Contract between the Adventurers and Proprietors, and the Consistency of the Policy of these Acts with that Contract. It will then appear that they are consistent with it on

Princi-

Principles of Equity and Justice, the true Foundation on which all Contracts ought to be considered; and that the Opposition they have met with in Parliament hath been in general begun and carried on upon those little narrow Principles of Self-interest, which are in their own Nature destructive of all great Objects of public Good.

By a Clause in the 15th of *Charles* the Second the Governors, Bailiffs, and Conservators of the Great Level are impowered to exercise the Laws and Customs of *Romney Marsh*, and appoint such Officers as these Laws warrant. This Power given to the Corporation induc'd the Editor to look into the Charter, and the Laws and Customs of that Marsh, as by that Clause they appear to be adopted into the Constitution of the Corporation; but on Examination he found the two Constitutions so different, that notwithstanding this Power, it is not possible to apply those Laws in any one Instance in the Government of the *Bedford* Level Corporation. *Rumney Marsh* is a large and rich Tract of Land, defended from the Inroads of the Sea by great and expensive Works; its Constitution is as old as *Henry* the Third, and is a very wise one for the Ends design'd by it. Its general Reputation induc'd those who meant well to the Great Level, to ingraft it into the Constitution of the Corporation, without well considering those Laws, that if any Advantages could

could arise therefrom, whatever they were, the Corporation might have them; and on this Account it is, that those Laws and Customs are not to be met with in this Collection.

The Editor cannot take his Leave without expressing his most ardent Wishes for the Happiness and Prosperity of that Body whose Laws he now publishes; these Wishes are founded in a Gratitude, and in an Affection for the Great Level, which becomes him. The Sincerity of his Wishes for that Happiness and Prosperity he cannot stronger evince, than by his Prayers for a long lasting Continuance of that illustrious House, which at first form'd and hath ever since animated that Body.

*Stet fortuna domus, avi numerentur avorum.*

May a *Russel* Duke of *Bedford* preside as Governor of the Corporation till Time shall be no more!

FENN-OFFICE,

Dec. 1, 1761.



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# LYNN LAW.

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# LYNN LAW.

CAROLUS, *Dei Gratia, Angliæ, Scotiæ, Franciæ et Hiberniæ Rex, fidei Defensor, &c.* Omnibus ad quos præsentēs literæ pervenerint, *Salutem.*

**I**NSPEXIMUS, Ordinationes quasdam sive decreta de Le Sewers indentat<sup>r</sup> per quosdam Commissionarios nostros, virtute Commissionis nostræ nuper ordinat<sup>r</sup>, inactat<sup>r</sup>, stabilit<sup>r</sup> et decret<sup>r</sup> manu nostra propria signat<sup>r</sup>, in Cancellar<sup>r</sup> nostra retornat<sup>r</sup> et in filaciis ibidem de Record<sup>r</sup> residen<sup>r</sup>, in hæc verba.

CAROLUS Rex a ceo assenta.

**A**T a Sessions of Sewers at King's Lynn in the County of *Norfolk*, the thirteenth Day of *January* in the sixth Year of the Reign of our Gracious Sovereign Lord King *Charles*, over *England*, &c. Touching the draining of the Fens and Low Grounds within the Counties of *Northampton*, *Norfolk*, *Suffolk*, *Lincoln*, *Cambridge*, *Huntingdon*, and the *Isle of Ely*,



within the Limits of this Commission, holden in the Presence of the Right Honourable *Francis Earl of Bedford*; and before Sir *Robert Heath* Knight, his Majesty's Attorney General, Sir *Miles Sandys* Knight and Baronet, Sir *John Carleton* Baronet, Sir *Robert Beville* Knight of the Bath, Sir *John Cutts*, Sir *John Peyton*, Sir *John Bell*, Sir *John Hare*, Sir *John Poley*, Sir *Thomas Dereham*, Knights; Doctor *Henry Butts*, Vice-Chancellor of *Cambridge*; *Henry Smith*, Doctor of Divinity; *Henry Cromwell*, Junior, *Sinolphus Bell*, *John Percivall*, Mayor of the Town of *King's Lynn*, *Francis Parlett*, *Everard Buckworth*, *Thomas Edwards*, *Edmund Skipwith*, *Humberstone March*, *Thomas Dawes*, *Andrew Burrell*, *John Oldfield*, *Thomas Dereham*, *William Leak*, *Gregory Gawfell*, *Robert Gawfell*, *Thomas Drury*, *Thomas Fincham*, *Thomas Cross*, *William Hobson*, *William Hayward*, *George Glapthorne*, Esquires; and others to the Number of Forty and one, Commissioners of Sewers, then and there assembled by Authority of his Highnesses Commission of Sewers to them and others directed, it is ordered, enacted, adjudged and decreed, as followeth:

**Whereas**, That great and worthy Work of draining of the Fens, Marshes and surrounded Grounds, lying and being within the Precincts and Limits of the Commission of Sewers, for the Counties of *Northampton*, *Lincoln*, *Norfolk*, *Suffolk*, *Cambridge*, *Huntingdon*, and the *Isle of Ely*, was first propounded in the Time of the Reign of King *James* of blessed Memory, and in the nineteenth Year

'A Short Recital  
of a Law of  
Sewers made  
19th Jac.

Year of his late Majesty's Reign, and at the Town of *Cambridge*, at a general Assembly of the Commissioners of Sewers there, for those Counties, his then Majesty having declared by his Royal Letters, that he himself would undertake the said Work at his own Charge; for the Satisfaction of his Majesty's great Expences in that Behalf, the Quantity of one hundred and twenty thousand Acres of the said Marsh, Fenny Waltes, and surrounded Grounds, was, by an Act of Sewers then made, decreed to be assigned unto his Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, to be allotted out, held and enjoyed, in such Manner as by the said Act of Sewers is particularly and at large expressed; but his late Majesty or his now Majesty, by Reason of their other great and more important Occasions, nor any other on their Behalf, have hitherto undertaken the said Work in hand, whereby the said Act, and all the Intentions thereof, became hitherto fruitless and void.

**And whereas** his now Majesty, taking into his princely Consideration the miserable Estate of that whole Country, which of late hath been more surrounded with Waters, than ever in former Times, to the Hazard of those Parts thereof, which formerly yielded some Profit, and to the extreme Danger of the Persons and Estates of the Inhabitants of the Places near adjoining, and of rendering the Work almost impossible to be done, if in Time the same be not undertaken and prosecuted effectually, hath several Times re-

The Draining recommended by the King to the Commissioners.

commended the same to the special Care of the Commissioners of Sewers.

A Tax laid by the said Commissioners, but never paid.

**And whereas**, in Pursuance of so gracious an Intimation unto them, for their own private and for the Publick good, the Commissioners of Sewers, at a Sessions of Sewers holden at *Huntingdon* the twentieth Day of *January* in the fifth Year of his now Majesty's Reign, for Preparation of the said Work, did lay a Tax of six Shillings the Acre upon all and every the said Fenny, Marsh, Waste and surrounded Grounds; to be paid within a certain Time then appointed, and now long sithence past, in the said last mentioned Act expressed, which Tax or Sum of six Shillings the Acre, nor any Part thereof, was paid according to the said Act.

A Recital of a Contract made with Sir Cornelius Verunyden.

**And whereas**, at a Sessions of Sewers holden at *King's Lynn* in the said County of *Norfolk*, upon the first Day of *September* now last past, the Commissioners of Sewers then and there assembled, being Forty-seven in Number, in the Behalf of themselves and the rest of the Country, did contract with Sir *Cornelius Verunyden* Knight, that he the said Sir *Cornelius*, should at his own Charge undertake and perform the Draining of the said Marsh, Fenny, Waste and surrounded Grounds, in such Sort, as is hereafter in and by these Presents expressed; and that he the said Sir *Cornelius*, his Heirs and Assigns, should for his and their Recompence have and enjoy ninety thousand Acres, Parcel of the said Marsh, Fenny, Waste and surrounded Grounds, to be allotted and assigned unto him equally and indifferently,

indifferently, in such Sort, Manner and Form, as hereafter in and by these Presents shall be expressed.

And whereas, he the said Sir Cornelius Verunyden hath, upon a Map or Card, described the said Fenny, Marsh, Waste and surrounded Grounds, and the Outfalls thereof, by Lines or other Descriptions, and also by Writing, expressed and set down to the Commissioners of Sewers, what Drains, Sasses, Sluces, Banks, Cuts and other Works, he intended to make for the Draining of the said surrounded Grounds, which was well approved of by the said Commissioners now present, and he was contented to have undertaken the said Work, so as he might have had Ninety-five thousand Acres in all, to be allotted and assigned unto him for his Charge and Pains, and not otherwise; but the Commissioners and Country being unwilling to enlarge the Quantity or Number of Acres unto him, and the Country by their several Petitions, remaining with the Clerk of the Sewers, shewing much Unwillingness, that any Contract should be made with an Alien born, or any other Stranger, and being humble Suitors to the Right Honourable the Earl of Bedford now present, for so great and so noble a Work, so much concerning the whole Country, and his Lordship also in his own Particular would be the Undertaker thereof, which Motion proceeding so freely from the Country, and being seconded by all the Commissioners present, his Lordship yielded unto, and did agree to undertake the said Work.

Sir Cornelius Verunyden demands for the Draining.



Earl of Bedford doth undertake the Draining within six Years.

**Now**, the said Earl, according to the Agreements in these Presents expressed, doth promise and undertake, that he shall and will do his best Endeavour at his own Charge, to drain the said Marsh, Fenny, Waste and surrounded Grounds, in such Manner as that they shall be fit for Meadow or Pasture, or Arable, and shall begin the said Work this present Year, and continue and go on with the said Work without Cessation, except at such Times only, as shall be unseasonable for that Purpose, until the whole Work shall be fully finished; and that by God's Blessing he will fully finish the same within the Compass of six Years, to be accounted from the first Day of *October* now next ensuing, unless he be hindered by the Interruption of the Country, or some others by their Means, Consent or Procurement, or by such other casual Means, as the Commissioners of Sewers, or the greatest Number of them, in their Judgments shall approve to be just Reasons for the further deferring thereof; and the said Earl to have no Recompence for his Charges and Pains, otherwise than according to the true Meaning of these Presents hereafter expressed; but because the said surrounded Lands are so spacious, and many Parts thereof lie so far distant from the Sea, and from the several Out-falls, as that it is impossible to contrive the Work so, but that a great Part of the said now surrounded Lands will be over-flown with sudden Waters, until by Out-lets or otherwise the same can be discharged, and so

so by Drains or otherwise led along to the Outfalls; it is agreed that such Out-flowings by sudden Waters, which shall not lie longer upon the Lands than in convenient Time the same may pass away again, shall not be held or esteemed to be a not Draining thereof, according to the true Meaning of these presents.

**And** it is further enacted, adjudged, ordered and decreed, that Meers, Meer Grounds, Pooles and Lakes, and such Grounds as shall according to Art, and by the Approbation of the Commissioners be left for Forelands and Receptacles of Waters, shall not be accounted to be such Grounds, as the said Earl by his Agreement should drain, nor shall be accounted any Part of those Grounds, by or out of which he is to have his Recompence for the said Work.

**And** it is further enacted, ordered, adjudged and decreed, that the said Earl shall have Ninety-five thousand Acres of the said Lands to be indifferently allotted, assigned and set out unto him of the several Sorts and Qualities of the said Grounds, according to their several Natures and Goodness, by six of the Commissioners of Sewers, whereof three to be of the Quorum, upon which setting out, and Allotments to be made, the Commissioners, who shall set out the same, are to have Respect to the Commoners, that their parts may lie next to their own Dwellings, as near as may conveniently be.

No Lakes, Meers or Forelands to be accounted any Part of the said Land given for the Draining.

The Earl of Bedford to have 95000 Acres, &c. the Commoners Parts to be laid out next to their Dwelling.

**And**

Earl of Bedford's Part to be set out within three Months after the Survey.

A Corporation and 40000 Acres of the Earl's Proportion to be liable for the Preservation of the Works for ever.

And it is agreed that the Proportion aforesaid, intended for and unto the said Earl as aforesaid, shall be allotted and set out before the Feast Day of *St. Michael the Archangel* now next ensuing, for so much thereof as before that Time shall be surveyed; and for the Residue within three Months after the same shall be surveyed; and to the End that the said Work of Draining being once performed and finished, may be for ever after maintained; It is further ordered, enacted, adjudged and decreed, that the said Commissioners, together with the said Earl, shall become humble Suitors to his Majesty, to incorporate the said Earl, and such as he shall associate unto him, into one Body Corporate or Politick, to have Continuance for ever, thereby to enable them the better to make Laws, Ordinances and Orders, for the performing and maintaining of the said Works, and to have Power over the Land assigned, to perform and maintain the said Works as hereafter followeth; but over no other Lands, and that the whole Ninety-five thousand Acres shall entirely be made liable to the first doing and finishing thereof; And that forty thousand Acres thereof, to be indifferently assigned and set out for that Purpose by the Commissioners as aforesaid, shall be liable to the Maintenance and Continuance thereof for ever; And the said forty thousand Acres first and immediately to be under the Order and Government of the said Corporation for the End aforesaid; And upon their Neglect or Default,

to be under the Rule, Order, and Power of the Commissioners of Sewers for that Purpose aforesaid.

And it is further ordered, adjudged, enacted and decreed, that as soon and so often, as the said Earl or his Assigns shall have laid dry and drained an intire Proportion of the said Land, fit to be performed as one Work, containing the Quantity of thirty thousand Acres or more; that then and so often the said Earl shall have allotted, assigned, set out, and assured unto and for him, his Heirs and Assigns, his Proportion and Part thereof, according to the Rate and Proportion of Ninety-five thousand Acres, for the whole Work.

So soon as 30000 Acres in one entire Quantity shall be drained, the Earl to have his Allotment of Part of it made.

It is further ordered, enacted, adjudged and decreed, that the Owners of the said Lands shall divide and sever their Lands one from an other, unless they shall rather desire to lie undivided, by such sufficient Partitions, Dikes and Fences, as shall be necessary to convey or carry away the Rain Water towards the great Drains, and that such Partitions and Fence Dikes, if any such should be made, shall be made by them in such an uniform Manner, as may best conduce to the perfecting of the whole Work, by the Advice of the said Earl or of the said Corporation; but by the Direction of the said Commissioners.

Divisions to be made by the Land Owners.

It is further ordered, enacted; adjudged and decreed, that the Commissioners of Sewers shall or may set out convenient Highways and Passages by Land throughout the said whole Level, such as by the Judgment of the said Com-

Highways and Passages.



Provision for  
Navigation.

Commissioners shall be necessary to make Passages and Drifts to and from the said Lands by Bridges or otherwise.

**Provided** always, and it is further ordered, enacted, adjudged and decreed, that the Port and Haven of *King's Lynn* shall be preserved, and the Navigation Passage and Highways, in, upon and about all and every the Navigable Rivers within the Limits of this Commission, as namely the River of *Ouze*, *Grant*, *Nean*, *Welland* and *Glean*, shall be likewise preserved, and no Prejudice, Annoyance, Hurt or Hindrance done to them or any of them, by any of the Means aforesaid; And if it should happen that any such Prejudice, Annoyance, Hurt or Hindrance shall be committed or done in, upon or about any the said navigable Rivers, contrary to the Intent and Meaning of this Law; that upon Complaint thereof, it shall and may be lawful from Time to Time for eight of the said Commissioners, whereof the Vice-Chancellor of the University of *Cambridge* for the Time being, and the Mayors of *King's Lynn* aforesaid and *Cambridge* for the Time also being, shall be three, if they will be present, to reform, abate, prosterne and amove all such Prejudices, Annoyances, Hurts and Hindrances, and every of them, so that the ancient Navigation Passages and Highways may be restored and continued, in, upon and about the said Navigable Rivers, as heretofore hath been used and accustomed; any Thing in this Law to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

And

And, it is further ordered, enacted, adjudged and decreed, That for the Safety of *Holland*, Hundred of *Wisbich*, and other Parts thereof, *Clowes Crofs Drain* shall be kept within Soil or Banks, or if any Prejudice shall happen thereby, that six of the Commissioners shall from Time to Time reform the Excesses, or else that the said Earl or his Assigns shall make Recompence for the Losses which shall happen thereby, to the particular Owners of the Lands thereby annoyed.

For the Safety of *Holland* Hundred of *Wisbich*, *Clowes Crofs Drain* to be kept under Soil.

It is further ordered, enacted, adjudged and decreed, That the new Rivers, Cuts and Drains to be made by the said Earl and his Assigns, and the Banks thereof, and the Forelands on the Inside of the Bank not exceeding fifty or threescore Foot at the most in Breadth, shall belong and be to the said Earl, his Heirs and Assigns, in Respect he and they are to maintain the same, he and they paying, for the several Lands of any particular Owner thereof, such Recompence as the Commissioners shall think fit; And that there shall be no Passages made or suffered by or upon the said Banks, except only for towing of Boats along the same, in such Sort as shall be allowed by the Commissioners; But it is ordered, enacted, adjudged and decreed, that the old and ancient Rivers and Drains, and the Fishings thereof, shall be and continue unto the Owners thereof, in such Sort as formerly they did, or hereafter shall of Right belong, only they shall not therein or thereupon make, erect or maintain any Weres, Fishgarths, Damms, or other Impediments, whereby

All new Rivers, Cuts, &c. to belong to the Earl, old ones to the former Owners.

And

whereby the River or Passage of the Water may be hindered, which if they shall at any Time do, and the same be not removed and abated by themselves within ten Days after Monition to that Purpose given by the said Corporation, that then the said Corporation, by Warrant of the Commissioners of Sewers or any two of them, shall cause the same to be removed according to the Law of Sewers, at the Charge of those who erected or continued those Nuisances.

Liberty to  
make Drains  
and Cuts, and  
take Earth  
any where,  
giving Re-  
compence only  
for the Seve-  
rals.

And it is further ordered, enacted, adjudged and decreed, That the said Earl, his Assigns and Workmen, may freely take such Earth, and dig and make such Drains and Cuts, for the making and maintaining of all and every of the said Works, off and from the Lands next or near adjoining to the Place, as shall be needful, making such Allowance and Recompence for the Damage which may happen thereby to any private Person, by digging of his several Land, as the Commissioners shall adjudge to be just and equal. And if any riotous or unlawful Act shall be committed either openly or secretly, to the Destruction of any Part of the said Works, or to the Hindrance or Impediment thereof, the said Commissioners shall from Time to Time assist the said Earl, his Assignees or Workmen, to repress and suppress all such Insolences and Disturbances, and shall, either at their Sessions or otherwise, do their best Endeavours to discover and severely punish the Offenders.

And

And it is further ordered, enacted, ad- Melioration.  
judged and decreed, That the Owners, Far-  
mers, and Occupiers of all such Grounds or  
Banks, as shall have and receive Benefit or  
Ease by their Works, and yet no Part of their  
Lands shall be taken and allotted towards the  
making up of the said Ninety-five thousand  
Acres, shall contribute and pay unto the said  
Earl, his Heirs and Assigns, such Sums of  
Money as the said Commissioners or any six  
of them, whereof three of them to be of the  
Quorum, shall rate, assess and adjudge to be  
reasonable, having Respect to the Profit and  
Ease which they and every of them respec-  
tively shall receive by Means of the said  
Works, upon pain to forfeit double the Sum  
for every Month by which it shall be  
unpaid.

And the said Earl doth desire, and the The Earl's  
said Commissioners for his better Encourage- Proportion to  
ment do promise and agree, that they will be held in free  
become humble Suitors with him the said Earl Socage, pay-  
unto his Majesty; that the said Ninety-five ing his Ma-  
thousand Acres to be assigned and assured unto jesty a Fee-  
him, his Heirs and Assigns, for his Recom- farm Rent of  
pence as afore said, may be held in free and 10 l. yearly,  
common Socage, and not otherwise, and and free of all  
without paying any Rent thereout, or giving other Incum-  
any Recompence for the same, unto the brances.  
King's Majesty, his Heirs and Successors,  
other than a Fee-farm Rent of ten Pounds  
per the Year; and that if any other Rents are  
or shall happen to be issuing or payable out of  
the said Ninety-five thousand Acres, or any  
Part thereof, to his Majesty, or to any other  
Person

And



Person or Persons, Body corporate and politick, the same from Time of the Allotment, Assigning or Assuring thereof to the said Earl, his Heirs and Assigns as aforesaid, shall be charged upon the Residue of the Lands out of which the same are or shall be issuing, and the Part or Portion allotted and assigned to the said Earl, his Heirs or Assigns, for his Recompence as aforesaid, to be thereof discharged or saved harmless for ever.

**And** to the End the said Earl may the more confidently undertake and perfect the said Work, and be assured to enjoy the said Ninety-five thousand Acres, as the Fruit and Recompence of his Labour and Charge; and the Country also may be the better assured of, to have and enjoy that Benefit by the said Work, which they expect in the Residue of said Lands now surrounded, in lieu of so great a Quantity of Land, which they are to part with as aforesaid.

His Majesty to  
release all Be-  
nefits of the  
Act of Sewers  
made to his  
Father, 19<sup>th</sup> a.  
and to confirm  
this Act to  
accept of  
12000 Acres  
for the Fa-  
vour.

**It** is mutually agreed and fully concluded by and between the said Commissioners and the said Earl, that they shall become humble Suitors to the King's most excellent Majesty, that his Majesty would vouchsafe to release under his Great Seal all Benefits which he might challenge by the Law of Sewers, made in the nineteenth Year of the Reign of King *James*, or by any other Law or Decree of Sewers, and to approve of and confirm this Act and Decree, and by his Royal Hand signing the same to declare his Royal Approbation thereof, and Assent thereunto, and so to recommend it to the Right Honourable the

the Lord Keeper of the Great Seal, that it may in the due form of Law be confirmed by the Decree of the Honourable Court of Chancery ; and that his Majesty would also vouchsafe to recommend it to the Right Honourable the Lords and others of his Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council, that it may there be ordered as Matter of State not to be altered or impeached, having received the Approbation of that Honourable Board, and that whensoever a Parliament shall be called, and a Bill being then preferred to the two Houses of that High Court of Parliament, and the same be then passed as a Law, his Majesty would be graciously pleased for the full and final Confirmation thereof, to give his Royal Assent thereunto, and that his Majesty would be graciously pleased, for these his Royal Favours vouchsafed to this poor distressed Part of his Country, which can receive no Relief or Help, but by his Royal Hands in giving Life to this Law, to accept of the Quantity of twelve thousand Acres, Parcel of the said Ninety-five thousand Acres, to be assured by the said Earl or his Heirs, to the King's Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, to be held and enjoyed by them for ever, freed and discharged of and from all Right, Title or Interest of Common, or otherwise to be claimed or demanded by the said Earl, or any other Person or Persons whatever ; the said twelve thousand Acres to be layed together in one or two entire Pieces or Quantities, out of such of the said surrounded Lands as now are Parcel of the Manor of *Whittlesey*, or other Manors thereto

thereto adjoining; which Quantity of twelve thousand Acres the said Earl and Country, by an unanimous Consent, do humbly offer unto his Majesty as a thankful Acknowledgment of his gracious Favour, in recommending the said Work and perfecting the same with his Royal Favour and Assent, as aforesaid.

Composition  
to be given to  
the Earl for  
small Propor-  
tions being in  
Severalty.

**Provided** always, and it is lastly ordered, enacted, adjudged and decreed, that when it shall fall out, the several Lands or Half several Lands of any Owner shall lie in such small Portions together, as do not exceed the Quantity of thirty Acres in any one Piece together, whereby it shall or may be inconvenient and over chargeable to divide a proportionable Part thereof, to be allotted to the said Earl, his Heirs and Assigns, and severed out from the Residue of the said Parcels of Lands, which are to remain to the Owner and Owners thereof, that in every such Case the said Earl, his Heirs and Assigns, at his and their own Choice, shall either have the Lands in kind allotted unto them, and to be severed out by them, or shall have so much Recompence in Money paid to him or them for the same, as six of the said Commissioners, whereof three to be of the Quorum, shall reasonably value the same to be worth; such Money to be paid within three Months then next following, or else in Default of Payment thereof, to incur the Penalty of twenty Shillings for every Acre of the said small Proportions of Land, and so after that Rate for every three Months the same shall be unpaid.

In

**In Witness** whereof the Commissioners above named have hereunto put their Hands and Seals, the Day and Year above written.

*Nos autem sep' al' tenores ordinat' sive Decret' prædict' ad requisitionem Francisci Comitis Bedford, duximus exemplificand' per præsentis, In cujus rei Testimonium has literas nostras fecimus patentes, Ac eisdem tam magnum sigill' nostrum Angliæ quam Sigillum nostrum Ducat' nostri Lancastr' apponi fecimus, Teste me ipso apud Canbury sexto decimo die Julii Anno Regni nostri septimo.*

Cesar.

Rob. Rich. } Clericos.  
Jof. Mitchel. }



1871  

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# INDENTURE

OF

FOURTEEN PARTS.

20th Feb. 7 Car. 1.

1631.

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I N D E N T U R E  
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F O U R T E E N   P A R T S .

**T**HIS Indenture consisting of fourteen Parts, made the Seven and Twentieth Day of *February* in the Seventh Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord *Charles*, by the Grace of God, of *England, Scotland, France and Ireland* King, Defender of the Faith, &c. **Between** Parties to this Indenture.  
the Right Honourable *Francis* Earl of *Bedford*,  
of the first Part; *Oliver* Earl of *Bullingbrooke*  
of the second Part; *Edward* Lord *Gorges* of  
the third Part; Sir *Robert Heath* Knight, Lord  
Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, of the  
fourth Part; Sir *Miles Sandys* of *Wilberton*  
within the *Isle of Ely* in the County of *Cam-*  
*bridge*, Knight and Baronet, of the fifth Part;  
Sir *William Russel* of *Chipenham* in the said  
County of *Cambridge*, Knight and Baronet, of  
the sixth Part; Sir *Robert Bevill* of *Chesterton*  
in the County of *Huntingdon*, Knight of the  
Honourable Order of the *Bath*, of the seventh  
Part;



Part; Sir *Thomas Tyringbam* of *Tyringbam* in the County of *Buckingham*, Knight, of the eighth Part; Sir *Philibert Vernatt* of *Carleton* in the County of *York*, Knight, of the ninth Part; *William Sames*, Doctor of the Law, of the tenth Part; *Anthony Hamond* of *Saint Albons* in the County of *Kent*, Esquire, of the eleventh Part; *Samuel Spalding* of the Town of *Cambridge* in the said County of *Cambridge*, Gentleman, of the twelfth Part; *Andrews Burrell* of *London*, Gent. of the thirteenth Part; and Sir *Robert Lovett* of *Liscombe* in the said County of *Bucks*, Knight, of the fourteenth

Recital of Part of *Lynn Law*. Part; **Witnesseth**, That whereas a Sessions of Sewers was, by his Majesty's Commission under his Highnesses Great Seal of *England*, holden at *King's Lynn* in the County of *Norfolk*, the thirteenth Day of *January* in the sixth Year of his now Majesty's Reign, for the Fenny and surrounded Grounds within the said County of *Norfolk*, and the Counties of *Suffolk*, *Northampton*, *Cambridge*, *Huntingdon*, *Lincoln* and the *Isle of Ely*, which Commission was specially intended for the great Work of the Draining of the Great Fens and other low Grounds, lying surrounded in those several Counties, within the Limits of the said Commission, containing by Estimation the Quantity of three Hundred and threescore Thousand Acres of drowned or surrounded Lands, or thereabouts: At which Sessions, upon the Petitions of divers the Inhabitants and Owners of the said fenny and surrounded Grounds, lying and being within the said several Counties, which said Petitions are remaining

maining with the Clerk of Sewers, and at the  
 earnest Desire of the rest of the Commission-  
 ers of Sewers, then and there assembled, the  
 said Right Honourable *Francis* Earl of *Bed-*  
*ford*, who was likewise one of the Commis-  
 sioners and then present, being a great Owner  
 of those Fennies, was moved to the End that so  
 noble a Work might be effectually performed,  
 that his Lordship would be the Undertaker  
 thereof upon such Condition as should be agreed  
 upon between his Lordship and the rest of  
 the Commissioners, on the Behalf of the said  
 several Counties; unto which Motion the said  
 Earl, out of his Desire to further so Publick  
 and good a Work, did give his Consent, and  
 thereupon it was ordered and decreed by the  
 rest of the said Commissioners, that the said  
 Earl should undertake the said Work at his  
 own Charge, and should have the Quantity of  
 Ninety-five thousand Acres of the said sur-  
 rounded Lands, for his Recompence, to be  
 assigned, set out and assured to him and his  
 Assigns, in such Sort, as by the said Act of  
 Sewers is expressed; Twelve thousand Acres  
 whereof, are to be granted and disposed of  
 to the King's Majesty, for his Use as by the  
 said Act it doth appear. **And whereas** Earl of *Bed-*  
 the said Earl undertook so great a Work upon *ford* under-  
 the Confidence he had of the Aid and Assist- takes the  
 ance therein from divers other Gentlemen, Work, on  
 who by his good Example and Encourage- Confidence  
 ment would become Adventurers with him, that others  
 since which Time the Parties to these Presents would become  
 have agreed to become Adventurers, and the Adventurers.  
 said Earl is willing to admit them to be Ad-  
 venturers

venturers with him in the said Work, according to the several Proportions following; that is to say, That the whole Proportion of Land to be allotted and assured in the Recompence of the said Work, shall be divided into twenty whole Shares, of which Shares the said Earl of *Bedford* doth agree to adventure for two whole Shares, *Oliver* Earl of *Bullingbrooke* for one whole Share; *Edward* Lord *Gorges* for one whole Share; *Sir Robert Heath* for one whole Share; *Sir Miles Sandys* for two whole Shares; *Sir William Russell* for two whole Shares; *Sir Robert Bevill* for one whole Share; *Sir Thomas Tyringham* for two whole Shares; *Sir Philibert Vernatt* for one whole Share; *Doctor Sames* for one whole Share; *Anthony Hamond* for two whole Shares; *Samuel Spalding* for one whole Share; *Andrews Burrell* for one whole Share; and *Sir Robert Lovatt* for one whole Share: Now it is severally covenanted, condescended and agreed upon, by and between the said Parties to these Presents; And the said Earl of *Bedford*, Earl of *Bullingbrooke*, *Edward* Lord *Gorges*, *Sir Robert Heath*, *Sir Miles Sandys*, *Sir William Russell*, *Sir Robert Bevill*, *Sir Thomas Tyringham*, *Sir Philibert Vernatt*, *Doctor Sames*, *Anthony Hamond*, *Samuel Spalding*, *Andrews Burrell*, and *Sir Robert Lovatt*, and every of them severally and respectively for himself, and themselves, his and their several and respective Heirs, Executors, Administrators and Assigns, do covenant, promise, grant and agree to and with each other, his Heirs, Executors, Administrators and Assigns, by these

Proportion of Land divided into Twenty Shares.

Number of Shares each Adventurer engages for.

Adventurers agree to sustain Proportional Shares of the Charge.

these  
*Bedford*  
*Gorges*  
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*Thomas*  
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*Andrews*  
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these Presents, That they the said Earl of Bedford, Earl of Bullingbrooke, Edward Lord Gorges, Sir Robert Heath, Sir Miles Sandys, Sir William Russell, Sir Robert Bevill, Sir Thomas Tyringham, Sir Philibert Vernatt, Doctor Sames, Anthony Hamond, Samuel Spalding, Andrews Burrell, and Sir Robert Lovatt, and every of them, their and every of their Executors, Administrators and Assigns, shall and will bear and sustain the Charge of the said Work, in such several Proportions and in such Manner, as in and by these Presents it is expressed. **And whereas,** by the true Intent and Meaning of the said Act and Law of Sewers, the Part and Portion of the said Earl of Bedford is to be allotted and set out unto himself, his Heirs and Assigns, in Recompence for the said Work, as by the said Act and Law it doth more fully appear: Now he the said Earl of Bedford, for the Consideration aforesaid, that is to say, That they the said Earl of Bullingbrooke, Edward Lord Gorges, Sir Robert Heath, Sir Miles Sandys, Sir William Russell, Sir Robert Bevill, Sir Thomas Tyringham, Sir Philibert Vernatt, Doctor Sames, Anthony Hamond, Samuel Spalding, Andrews Burrell, and Sir Robert Lovatt, and their Assigns, are to bear and sustain their proportionable Parts of the Charge of the said Work, Undertaking together with the said Earl of Bedford, in such Sort as is in and by these Presents expressed, and shall pay and disburse such Monies as shall be necessary and required for the said Work, in such Proportions, as herein is expressed, doth by these Presents

In Consideration whereof the Earl of Bedford agrees, that said Adventurers shall be his Assigns of the Recompence in just Proportions, according to each Man's Adventure.



Presents for himself, his Heirs and Assigns, grant unto them the said Earl of *Bullingbrooke*, *Edward Lord Gorges*, *Sir Robert Heath*, *Sir Miles Sandys*, *Sir William Russell*, *Sir Robert Bevill*, *Sir Thomas Tyringham*, *Sir Philibert Vernatt*, *Doctor Sames*, *Anthony Hamond*, *Samuel Spalding*, *Andrews Burrell*, and *Sir Robert Lovatt*, and doth hereby also declare, That they the said Earl of *Bullingbrooke*, *Edward Lord Gorges*, *Sir Robert Heath*, *Sir Miles Sandys*, *Sir William Russell*, *Sir Robert Bevill*, *Sir Thomas Tyringham*, *Sir Philibert Vernatt*, *Doctor Sames*, *Anthony Hamond*, *Samuel Spalding*, *Andrews Burrell*, and *Sir Robert Lovatt*, are and shall be the Assigns of him the said Earl of *Bedford*, to whom and to whose Heirs and Assigns, as far forth as to the said Earl of *Bedford* himself and his Heirs, according to their several Proportions aforesaid, all the Lands, Tenements, Fishings, and other Hereditaments and Profits, which by the said Law and Act of Sewers are appointed, or mentioned to come unto him the said Earl, in Recompence of the said Work of Draining, shall be indifferently assigned and set forth, in just and due Proportions and Shares, according to every Man's several Adventures as aforesaid. **And** the said Earl of *Bedford* doth hereby further grant, and his Intent and Meaning is hereby declared to be, that as soon and as often as any such Quantity or Portion of Land within the said Fens shall be drained by the Charges of the said Earl of *Bedford*, Earl of *Bullingbrooke*, *Edward Lord Gorges*, *Sir Robert Heath*, *Sir Miles Sandys*,

Earl of *Bedford* to assign as often as any Quantity of Land is drained.

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Assigns, Sir *William Russell*, Sir *Robert Bevill*, Sir *Thomas Tyringham*, Sir *Philibert Vernatt*, Doctor *Sames*, *Anthony Hamond*, *Samuel Spalding*, *Andrews Burrell*, and Sir *Robert Lovatt*, or their Heirs or Assigns, as by the Intent of the said Law and Act of Sewers, the proportionable Part and Portion of the said Land intended for the said Earl's Recompence, is to be assigned, conveyed and assured to the said Earl of *Bedford* and his Assigns; That then and so often all such Lands from Time to Time, and at all Times, shall be justly and indifferently assigned, conveyed and assured to the said Earl of *Bullingbrooke*, *Edward Lord Gorges*, Sir *Robert Heath*, Sir *Miles Sandys*, Sir *William Russell*, Sir *Robert Bevill*, Sir *Thomas Tyringham*, Sir *Philibert Vernatt*, Doctor *Sames*, *Anthony Hamond*, *Samuel Spalding*, *Andrews Burrell*, Sir *Robert Lovatt*, and their Heirs and Assigns, according to their several Adventures as aforesaid. And that they the said Earl of *Bullingbrooke*, *Edward Lord Gorges*, Sir *Robert Heath*, Sir *Miles Sandys*, Sir *William Russell*, Sir *Robert Bevill*, Sir *Thomas Tyringham*, Sir *Philibert Vernatt*, Doctor *Sames*, *Anthony Hamond*, *Samuel Spalding*, *Andrews Burrell*, and Sir *Robert Lovatt*, and their Heirs and Assigns, shall be equal Sharers herein, and in all other Profit and Benefit either in Money, Toll, Composition, or other Kind or Nature whatsoever, arising, increasing, coming, accruing, or happening by the said Work or Draining, or by Reason and in Regard of the same with him the said Earl, according to their several Proportions and Shares

Adventurers to have proportional Share of all Profits, and same Remedy against Commissioners that the Earl himself might have.

Adventurers  
for every  
Share to ex-  
pend 500 *l.* or  
more if neces-  
sary on Notice  
in Writing  
from two or  
more of the  
Adventurers.

Shares of Money in the said Adventure as  
aforesaid; and shall have all such Remedy and  
Advantage to compel the said Commissioners  
to convey and assure the said Lands to them  
according to their said Shares, as the said Earl  
himself should or might have, and shall have  
and enjoy all Profit, Commodities, Privileges,  
and Benefits granted, or to be granted, to the  
said Earl of *Bedford*, as Undertaker of the said  
Work of Draining, or to any Corporation to  
be erected or made according to the said  
Law, to them and every of them, their Heirs  
and Assigns, severally and respectively. And  
it is also covenanted, condescended, and fully  
agreed on, by and between the said Parties to  
these Presents; and they the said Earl of *Bul-  
lingbrooke*, *Edward Lord Gorges*, *Sir Robert  
Heath*, *Sir Miles Sandys*, *Sir William Russell*,  
*Sir Robert Bevill*, *Sir Thomas Tyringham*, *Sir  
Philibert Vernatt*, *Doctor Sames*, *Anthony Ha-  
mond*, *Samuel Spalding*, *Andrews Burrell*, *Sir  
Robert Lovatt*, and every of them severally  
and respectively for himself and themselves,  
his and their several and respective Heirs,  
Executors, Administrators and Assigns, do  
covenant, promise and grant, to and with  
each other, his Heirs, Executors, Admini-  
strators and Assigns, by these Presents; That  
each of them, the said Earl of *Bedford*, Earl  
of *Bullingbrooke*, *Edward Lord Gorges*, *Sir  
Robert Heath*, *Sir Miles Sandys*, *Sir William  
Russell*, *Sir Robert Bevill*, *Sir Thomas Tyring-  
ham*, *Sir Philibert Vernatt*, *Doctor Sames*,  
*Anthony Hamond*, *Samuel Spalding*, *Andrews  
Burrell*, and *Sir Robert Lovatt*, and their  
Heirs,

Heirs, shall and will disburse and expend for one whole Share the Sum of five Hundred Pounds of lawful Money of *England*. And if the said Sum of five Hundred Pounds for every whole Share shall not be thought sufficient, then so much more Money over and above the said Sum of five Hundred Pounds, as shall be requisite for the Beginning of the first Work, and so from Time to Time such other Sum and Sums of lawful Money of *England*, as shall be declared to be needful and expedient for the said Work by the greater Number of them, or of their Assigns, according to their several Proportions and Shares as aforesaid. Notice in Writing to be left at their Houses, under the Hands of any two or more of the Adventurers. And further it is mutually covenanted, condescended, concluded and agreed upon, by and between the Parties to these Presents, That each of them, the said Earl of *Bedford*, Earl of *Bullingbrooke*, *Edward Lord Gorges*, Sir *Robert Heath*, Sir *Miles Sandys*, Sir *William Russell*, Sir *Robert Bevill*, Sir *Thomas Tyringham*, Sir *Philibert Vernatt*, Doctor *Sames*, *Anthony Hamond*, *Samuel Spalding*, *Andrews Burrell*, and Sir *Robert Lovatt*, shall and may, at his and their free Will and Pleasure, assign, set over, and convey his or their Adventure and Share, in or concerning the Premises, or such Parts and Proportions of the same, as shall be allotted and allowed unto him or them, or any Part thereof; so as each of his and their Assigns respectively, shall and do perform and pay what they and every

Adventurers  
may assign  
their Shares.



If Adventurers fail their Payments after ten Days warning, to be excluded all Benefit.

every of them, the said Earl of *Bedford*, Earl of *Bullingbrooke*, *Edward Lord Gorges*, Sir *Robert Heath*, Sir *Miles Sandys*, Sir *William Russell*, Sir *Robert Bevil*, Sir *Thomas Tyringham*, Sir *Philibert Vernatt*, Doctor *Sames*, *Anthony Hamond*, *Samuel Spalding*, *Andrews Burrell*, and Sir *Robert Lovatt*, have undertaken and by these Presents have bound themselves to perform and pay. And likewise it is agreed, that it shall and may be lawful to and for every such Assignee and Assignees, and for their Assigns, from Time to Time to assign, grant, set over and convey, his and their Adventure and Share so assigned, or such Part and Portion of the Premises as aforesaid. And also it is mutually covenanted, granted, concluded, condescended, and fully agreed upon, by and between the said Parties to these Presents, their Heirs, Executors, Administrators or Assigns, that if it shall happen any one of them, the said Earl of *Bedford*, Earl of *Bullingbrooke*, *Edward Lord Gorges*, Sir *Robert Heath*, Sir *Miles Sandys*, Sir *William Russell*, Sir *Robert Bevil*, Sir *Thomas Tyringham*, Sir *Philibert Vernatt*, Doctor *Sames*, *Anthony Hamond*, *Samuel Spalding*, *Andrews Burrell*, and Sir *Robert Lovatt*, or their Assigns, after ten Days warning given by the greatest Part of the Parties to these Presents, at their respective Habitations, to fail in the Payment and Disbursements of his or their Part of Monies, by him or them from Time to Time to be paid and disbursed as aforesaid, That then it shall and may be lawful

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to and for the rest of the said Parties or their Assigns, to supply and make up the same, or to admit some other Person or Persons, in his or their Room or Rooms who shall or do fail as aforesaid, if they shall so think fit; And that such Party as aforesaid, by himself or his Assigns failing, shall be wholly excluded from taking any Benefit of the Premises as aforesaid; and shall lose and for ever be debarred from having or demanding all or any such Sum or Sums of Money, as by any such Person or Persons shall have formerly been paid or disbursed for and towards the said Work. **And** if it shall happen any of the Parties to these Presents to die, that then the Executors, Administrators or Assigns of him or them so dying respectively, shall have the same Benefit, Profit and Interest, of or in the Share, Adventure or Proportion, belonging to the Party or Parties so deceasing; as the Party or Parties so deceasing shall have, or might have had to all Intents and Purposes: Such Executors, Administrators and Assigns, paying and performing such Payments, Covenants and Agreements in every Respect, as the Party or Parties so deceasing should or ought to do. **And** it is lastly, punctually covenanted, granted and agreed, by and between all the said Parties to these Presents, that they, their Heirs, Executors, Administrators and Assigns, shall at any Time hereafter do, make suffer and execute every Act, Conveyance and Assurance, for the settling, conveying and assuring severally any such

D                      Quantity,

Quantity, Share or Proportion of Land, or other Profit, to all or any the Parties to these Presents, their Executors, Administrators or Assigns respectively, requiring the same; As by the true Meaning of these Presents, doth or shall belong unto them, or as is hereby intended unto them by such Manner of Conveyance and Assurance, or by such other Manner as shall be reasonably devised or required. *In witness* whereof the Parties to these present Indentures have interchangeably set to their Hands and Seals, the Day and Year first above-written.

*Francis Bedford, (LS.)*  
*Edward Gorges, (LS.)*  
*Robert Heath, (LS.)*  
*Miles Sandys, (LS.)*  
*Thomas Tyringham, (LS.)*  
*Robert Bevill, (LS.)*  
*Philibert Vernatt, (LS.)*  
*Anthony Hamond, (LS.)*  
*William Sames, (LS.)*

Sealed and delivered by my Lord of Bedford, Lord Gorges, Sir Robert Heath, Sir Thomas Tyringham, Sir Robert Bevill, Sir Philibert Vernatt, Anthony Hamond, in the Presence of us,

Robert Scawen.  
 John Sheer.

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THE  
CHARTER

OF

INCORPORATION,

GRANTED

To the Right Honourable FRANCIS  
Earl of BEDFORD and others.

13 March 10 Car. 1.

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THE  
CHARTER  
OF  
INCORPORATION  
GRANTED

To the Right Honourable FRANCIS  
Earl of Bedford and others.

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# THE CHARTER OF INCORPORATION.

**C**AROLUS Dei Gratia Anglie Scotie Francie et Hibernie Rex fidei Defensor &c. OMNIBUS ad quos presentes litere pervenerint Salutem CUM ad Sessionem de Les Sewers apud Lynne Regis in Comitatu nostro Norf. decimo tercio die Januarii Anno Regni nostri Anglie et sexto concernen' derivaco'em Paludum et locor' Palustriu' in Comitatu nostris Northton' Norf' Suff' Lincoln' Cantabr' Huntington Insul' de Ely infra limites Commissionis nostre tent' in presentia predilecti et fidelis Consanguinei nostri Francisci Comitis Bedd' et coram Roberto Heath Milite ad tunc Attornato nostro generali Milone Sandes Milite et Baronetto et divers' aliis ad numerum quadragint' unius Commissionar' de les Sewers tunc et ibidem assemblet' autoritat' Commissionis nostre de les Sewers eis et aliis direct' multa bona et Salubria Act' Ordinaco'es et Decret'

per eosdem Commissionar' nostros pro et concernen' ear'dem Palud' et locor' Palustriu' derivaco'em fact' fuerunt.

**CUMQUE** tam Commissionar' nostri predict' quam populus ibidem quos predict' opus derivaco'is ear'dem terrar' demersar' concernebat humiliter a prefat' Comite Bedd' efflagitabant quod opus hoc ingens et celebre tam populi eor'dem Comitatus quam ipsius Comitatus commodum tantopere spectant' ipsemet Comes assumere dignaretur Quibus quidem votis ac desideriis prefat' Comes annuens predict' opus suscipere assenciebatur Ac superinde inactitatum ordinatum adjudicatum et decret' fuit per dictos Commissionar' quod pro recompensatione ingen' labor' et dispendii predicti' Comitatus Bedd' in opere predicto peragend' ipse haberet Nonaginta et quinque mille Acras earundem terrar' de separat' speciebus qualitat' et natur' ear'dem per sex eor'dem Commissionar' indifferenter sibi appunctuand' et designand'.

**CUMQUE** ad intenco'em quod tam predict' Comes predict' opus magis confidenter suscipere et perficere ac easdem Nonagint' et quinque Mille Acr' gaudere valeret quam populus eor'dem Comitatus quem spectabat beneficium quod expectabant ex residuo terrar' demers' in loco tant' terrar' proporcon' quam ut prefertur concesser' haberent et gauderent mutuo et plenariter inter predictos Commissionar' et Comit' convent' fuit quod ipsi nobis petentes humiles forent quod nos sub magno Sigillo nostro Anglie totum beneficium quod per legem de Sewers Anno Regni precharissimi nuper patris nostri Jacobi Regis Decimo nono

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seu per aliquam aliam legem sive Decret' de  
Sewers vendicare poterimus relaxaremus ac  
dict' Act' sive Decret' sua approbare et con-  
firmare dignaremur Necnon Regal' manu  
nostra eadem signand' approbac'oem et assen-  
sum Regium nostrum declaremus et abinde  
Custodi Sigilli nostri magni Anglie ut debita  
legis forma tam per Decret' Cur' nostr' Can-  
cellar' confirmaretur recommendare vellemus  
Quodque eadem Act' et Decret' Dominis et  
aliis de privato Consilio nostro quod ut res  
imperii imposter' non immutand' seu impug-  
nand' approbatione eor' in ea parte obtenta  
Quodque ad prox' Parliament' imposter' convo-  
cand' et Billa seu Petico'e duobus domibus ejus-  
dem Preferend' et eadem Act' et Decret' adtunc  
ut lex assentat' et peract' Nos pro plena et  
final' Confirmatione ejusdem Regalem assen-  
sum nostrum eidem concedere dignaremur  
Quodque nos pro hiis favoribus nostris Regiis  
indigen' populo nostro Comitatu' istor' qui  
auxiliu' et relevamen in premissis accipere non  
potuit nisi manu n'ra Regali lucem et vitam  
istis Act' et Decret' conferend' duodecim mille  
Acras de predict' Nonagint' et quinque Mille  
Acris nobis heredibus et Successoribus nostris  
assurand' et per nos imperpetuu' de et ab omni  
jure titulo aut interest' communie aut aliter  
per predict' Comitem aut aliquam aliam perso-  
nam sive personas quascunque clamand' accipere  
dignaremur, eisdem duodecim Mille Acris in  
una aut duabus proportionibus de predict'  
terris demersis modo parcell' Maner' de Whi-  
tlesey aut alior' Manerior' eidem adjacen' di-  
mensurand' et designand' Quas quidem duode-



cim Mille Acras predict' Comes et populus  
 noster per assensum suum unanimum et grati  
 eor' animi indicium pro gracia nostra Regali  
 opus predict' ut prefertur favore nostro Regio  
 et assensu recommendando et perficiendo nobis  
 humilime obtulerunt Quam quidem voluntar'  
 et liberam oblationem eor'dem Comitum et po-  
 puli nostri nos gratiose accipimus ac accepta-  
 mus per presentes.

CUMQUE nos predict' opus ingens ar-  
 duum et laude-dignum magnopere faventes  
 eadem Act' et Decret' predict' Regali nostro  
 assensu manu nostra testat' approbari fecimus  
 Nosque etiam pro meliori gubernaco'e progress'  
 et perimpleco'e operis predict' Comitum et  
 nonnullos alios de subdit' nostris in Corpus  
 Politicum per nomen Gubernator' Ballivor' et  
 Coi'tat' Societat' Conservator' Paludum in  
 Cantabr. Hunt' Northton' Lincoln' Norf' et  
 Suff' et Insul' Ely per literas nostras Paten-  
 tes eisdem in hac parte nuper concess' fece-  
 rimus constituerimus et creaverimus Eosdemque  
 subditos nostros divers' Donis Concessionibus  
 libertat' Jur' et Immunitat' investiri fecerimus  
 Cumque etiam in eisdem literis nostris Paten-  
 tibus menc'onatum existit quod pro predict'  
 Carta nostra habend' predict' Gubernator Bal-  
 livi Common'itas Societat' predict' ad conce-  
 dend' nobis heredibus et Successoribus nostris  
 duodecim Mille Acras infra planiciem predict'  
 aqua non coopertas sed desiccet' in locis con-  
 gruis per visum Supervisor' per Thesaurar'  
 Anglie constituend' in severalitat' tenend' de  
 Communia et ab oneribus et servitutibus exo-  
 nerat' promiserunt Que quidem duodecim  
 Mille

Mille Acras in predict' Act' ordinac'one et Decret' Commissionar' nostror' predict' no'iat' ac predict' duodecim Mille Acr' in predict' L'ris nostris Paten' menc'onat' intendebantur esse una et eadem duodecim Mille Acr' terr' et non al' neque divers.

SCIATIS igitur quod nos Dubitac'oes omnes et questiones que imposter' oriri poterint in hac parte penitus tollere volentes Necnon nos duodecim Mille Acr' in Act' et Decret' predict' express' et nobis heredibus et Successoribus nostris concess' seu concedi menc'onat' plenar' content' esse per presentes Declarantes de gratia nostra speciali ac ex Certa scientia et mero motu nostris pardonavimus remisimus relaxavimus et quiet' clamavimus Ac per presentes pro nobis Heredibus et Successoribus nostris pardonamus remittimus relaxamus et quiete clamamus prefat' Gubernator' Ballivis' et Common'itati Societat' predict' et Successoribus suis predict' duodecim Mille Acras in eisdem literis nostris Paten' ut prefertur promiss' seu promitti menc'onat' et quamlibet inde parcell' ac totum jus titul' clam' interess' et demand' nostra quecunque de in et ad easdem duodecim Mille Acras aut aliqua inde parcell' virtute seu colore ear'dem literar' nostrar' Patent' prerecitat' Necnon omnes et singul' Promissiones aut pretext' Pomission' de et concernen' predict' duodecim Mille Acr' in eisdem literis nostris Patentibus content' et express' aut eadem aliquo modo tangen' Salvis tamen semper et nobis hered' et Successoribus nostris omnibus reservat' predict' duodecim Mille Acr' in predict' Act' Ordinacon'

nacon' et Decret' Commissionar' nostror' de  
le Sewers predict' express' ac nobis heredi-  
bus et Successoribus nostris concess' vel men-  
conat' esse concess.

CUMQUE etiam predicti Gubernator Bal-  
livi et Common'itas Societatis predict' nobis  
humillime supplicaver' quod nos sursumred-  
ditionem ear'dem literar' nostrar' Patentiu'  
Premenc'onat' ab eisdem accipere vellemus ea  
tamen intenc'oe quod nos alias literas nostras  
Patentes cum eisdem ac aliquibus aliis Donis  
potestat' Privileg' et Immunitatibus ad Pro-  
motionem operis predict' conducent' eis con-  
cedere dignaremur Quam quidem sursumred-  
ditionem accepimus et acceptamus per pre-  
sentes.

CUMQUE pefat' Predilectus et fidelis  
Consanguineus noster Franciscus Comes Bedd'  
ac quidam alii dilecti Subditi nostri sui Con-  
fortes multor' desideriiis annuentes predicta  
Stagna Palustria et loca Paludosa in Predictis  
Comitatibus nostris Cantabr' Hunt' Northton'  
Lincoln' Suff' et Norf' et in Insula Ely tres-  
cent' et sexagint Millia Acr' terrar' aut eo circiter  
continencia e quibus Aqua coopert' Pisce flu-  
viali non multo et volatili aquatic' exceptis  
parum commodi usui humano deservientis per-  
venire dignoscitur Aquam derivando in terras  
Prat' et Pastur' in magnu' tam partium illar'  
quam totius reipublice nostre commodum redi-  
gere sumptu eor' immenso operam suam stre-  
nue navati sunt et navabunt Qua tantos fecere  
Progress' ita ut imposter' uti sperabat' loca  
illa quibus nihil præter multum Aque et pa-  
rum arundinis hic et illic intuencium aspectui

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se nuper exhibebant divina auspicante clemencia Pecor' Juvencor' leta Pascua et frequentes incolar' manso's intueri liceat Et quia tanta aquar' moles a locis illis nisi per erec'coem et confec'coem Stagnor' Ripar' aggerum fossar' Canal' Cataractar' pontiu' et Calcetor' et operum alior' eor'que continuationem et preservationem perpetuas derivari non possit nec tueri que impensas quotidianas postulabunt ac ad perpetuam supportaco'em onerum tanto operi incumbenciu' de paludibus istis desiccandis quadraginta millia Acra' per metas dignoscend' sunt designanda unde redditus exit' et profic' ad subvenco'em onerum hujusmodi que non tam per singulos in fata sepius decedentes heredibus minoribus Feminis et aliis suor' regimin' non sufficientibus relictis quam si eor' erogacio et Premissor' continuatio quor'dam viror' discret' Politice Corporat' Succession' perpetuam habent' curæ incumberet Sciatis igitur quod nos ad Premissa Considerationem habentes Nec non progress' e perimplecon' operis predicti omnibus modis quibus poterimus succurrere et subvenire volentes ac predictor' Gubernator' Ballivor' et Common'itatis Societat' Predom' Premissis Petic'oi graciosè annuentes de gratia nostra speciali ac ex certa sciencia et mero motu nostris volumus quod de cetero imperpetuum sit et erit una Societas de Conservatoribus Paludum infra Comitatus predicti in unum Corpus corporat' et Politicum redact' Ac præfat' Franciscum Comitem Bedd' et subscriptos sibi Oliverum Comitem de Bullingbrooke Henricum Dominum Maltrevers Edwardum



Edwardum Dominum Gorge Franciscum  
 Crane Militem prenobil' Ordinis Garterii  
 Cancellar' Milonem Sandis Militem et Baro-  
 net' Thomam Tyrringham Militem Robertum  
 Lovet Militem Filbertum Vernatt Militem  
 Milonem Sandis Militem Will'um Sams le-  
 gum Doctorem Oliverum St. John Armige-  
 rum Anthonium Hamond Armigenum et  
 Samuelem Spalding Generosum et al' in forma  
 subscript' eligend' et Successores suos in Socie-  
 tat' predict' ac in unum Corpus corporat' et  
 Politicum imperpetuum duratur' in re facto et  
 nomine per nomen Gubernator' Ballivor' et  
 Communitat' Societat' Conservator' Paludum  
 in Com' Cantabr' Hunt' Northton' Lincoln'  
 Norf' et Suff' et Insula Ely pro nobis Here-  
 dibus et Successoribus nostris facimus crea-  
 mus et constituimus ac per nomen predict'  
 nuncupari volumus per presentes Et quod de  
 ipsis unus sit Gubernator alter Deputatus Gu-  
 bernator duo Ballivi et ceteri de Commo-  
 n'itat' Societat' predict' Et quod ipsi et alii in  
 forma sequen' in Societat' illam eligend' et ad-  
 mittend' et Successores sui per idem nomen ha-  
 beant Successionem perpetuam Quodque ipsi et  
 Successores sui sint et erint perpetuis futuris  
 temporibus persone habiles et in lege Capaces  
 ad habend' perquirend' possidend' et retinend'  
 terras tenemen' et Hereditamenta sibi et suc-  
 cessoribus suis in Feod' et perpetuitate vel  
 pro tempore vite vitar' vel Annor' ac bona et  
 catalla Jura et debit' cujuscunque generis na-  
 ture seu speciei Necnon ad dand' assignand'  
 dimittend' et disponend' eadem terr' tenement'  
 et Hereditamenta bona et catalla Necnon  
 per nomen predict' plitari et implitari de-  
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fendere et defendi valeant et possint in quibuscunque Curiis et locis et coram quibuscunque Judicibus Justiciar' vel al' Officiar' et Ministris nostris Hered' et Successor' nostror' in omnimod' Acc'oib' Pl'itis querelis et demand' modo et forma prout aliquis ligeus noster habilis et in lege capax aut aliquod aliud Corpus corporat' seu Politicum quodcunque valeat et possit.

VOLUMUS ETIAM et per presentes pro nobis heredib' et Successoribus nostris concedimus eisdem Gubernator' Ballivis et Communitat' Societat' predict' Quod predict' Franciscus Comes Bedd' sit primus et modernus Gubernator' Societat' predict' et predict' Milo Sandis Miles et Baronett' sit primus Deputat' Gubernator et pred' Thomas Tirringham Miles et Milo Sandis Miles sint et erint primi et moderni Ballivi Societat' predict' Et predictus Oliverus Comes Bullingbrooke Henricus Dominus Maltrevers Edwardus Dominus Gorge Franciscus Crane Miles Robertus Lovet Philbert Vernatt Miles Will'us Samms Oliverus St. John Anthonius Hamond et Samuel Spalding sint et erint primi et moderni de Comon'itat' Societat' predict' Eundemque Franciscum Comitem Bedd' primum et modernum Gubernatorem et predict' Milonem Sandis Militem et Baronett' primum et modernum Deputat' Gubernator' et Thomam Tirringham Militem et Milonem Sandis Militem primos et modernos Ballivos et predict' Oliverum Comitem Bullingbrooke Henricum Dominum Maltrevers Edwardum Dominum Gorge Franciscum Crane Robertum Lovett Philbert'

Philbert Vernatt Will'um Samms Oliverum  
 St. John Anthonium Hamond et Samuelem  
 Spaldinge primos et modernos de Common'i-  
 tat' Societat' predict' facimus ordinamus et  
 creamus per presentes Quem Gubernatorem  
 in Officio suo continuari volumus usque in  
 festo Sancti Michaelis Archangeli quod erit  
 in Anno Domini Millesimo sexcentesimo tri-  
 cesimo quinto et abinde quousque ipse vel  
 alius in locum Gubernator' Societat' illius eli-  
 gatur Ac predict' Deputat' Gubernator' in Of-  
 ficio illo continuari volumus usque in eodem  
 festo et abinde quousque ipse vel alius in lo-  
 cum illum eligatur quodque uterque dictor'  
 Ballivor' in dictis Officiis suis respective conti-  
 nuabunt usque in eodem festo et abinde quo-  
 usque ipsi vel alii in loco et Offic' Ballivor' So-  
 cietat' predict' eligantur quodque quilibet de  
 Common'itat' Societat' predict' de dicta Com-  
 mon'itat' respective continuabunt ad terminum  
 vite sue nisi ex justa causa quispiam de pre-  
 dict' Gubernator' Deputat' Gubernator' Bal-  
 livis vel Common'itate a loco suo amoveatur  
 Quodque iidem Gubernator' Ballivi et Co-  
 mon'itas Societat' predict' et Successores sui  
 habeant Commune Sigill' pro causis et ne-  
 gotiis suis et Successor' eor' quibuscunque agend'  
 deservitur Et quod liceat eis Sigillum illud  
 ad libitum suum frangere et mutare et de novo  
 facere quoties et prout eis fore videbitur ex-  
 pediens.

ET ULTERIUS pro nobis Heredibus  
 et Successoribus nostris concedimus licenciam  
 pefat' Gubernator' Ballivis et Comon'itat' So-  
 cietat' predict' et Successoribus suis in aliquo  
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loco convenien' infra Insul' Elien' per prefat' Gubernator' Ballivos et Comon'itat' Societat' predict' et successores suos designand' quandam Domum Consilii et Aulam communem habere et ibidem in vicesimo nono die Septembris singulis Annis et sepius rerum necessitate exigente se ipsos congregare et convenire et cum libero consensu prefat' Gubernator' Ballivor' Common'itat' Societat' predict' vel majoris partis eor'dem interesse volentium nominare et eligere unum discret' et idoneum virum de Deputat' Gubernator' Ballivis aut Common'itat' ejusdem Societat' fore Gubernator' dicte Societat' qui sic elect' in eodem Officio stabit et continuabit usque in vicesimo nono die Septembris tunc prox' sequen' et abinde quousque ipse vel alius ejus loco eligatur et preficiatur nisi interim ex justa causa a loco illo debite amoveatur Aceciam nominare et eligere de se ipsis unum virum probum et discret' fore Deputat' Gubernator' Societatis predict' et duos alios fore Ballivos Societatis predict' qui sic electi in eisdem Officiis singuli eor' stabunt et continuabunt usque in vicesimo nono die Septembris tum prox' sequen' et abinde quousque ipsi vel eor' aliquis aut alii eor'dem locis respective eligantur et preficiantur nisi interim ex justa causa a locis suis debite amoveantur vel amoveatur aliquis et alios tenentes terrar' quingent' Acr' palud' predict' ad minus in feod' et hereditate habentes pro tempore existen' in Common'itat' ejusdem Societat' quos voluerint admittere eligere et preficere et alios loco eor' alicujus in fata decedentis seu amoti eligere substituere et



et preficere quoties necessar' eis videbitur Vo-  
 lumus tamen Gubernator' et Deputat' Guber-  
 nator' et quemlibet Ballivor' et quemlibet de  
 Common'itat' Societatis predictae per maiorem  
 partem Gubernator' Deputat' et Ballivor' et  
 Common'itat' Societat' predict' ut predictum  
 est debite premonitor' interesse volencium iusta  
 de causa amobilem et amovend' Et si conti-  
 gerit Gubernator' Deputat' Gubernator' vel Bal-  
 livos vel quemquam de Common'itate Societat'  
 predictae obire vel amovere per quod locus vel  
 Officiu' suum vac' deveniet tunc licebit super-  
 viven' Gubernator' Deputat' Gubernator' Bal-  
 livis et Common'itat' Societat' predictae seipso  
 similiter congregare et convenire et ibidem ali-  
 am personam vel personas fore Gubernator'  
 Deputat' Gubernator' Ballivos et de Commo-  
 n'itat' Societat' predict' in forma predict' loco  
 et vice illor' Gubernator' Deputat' Gubernator'  
 Ballivor' vel alicujus de Common'itate vel eor'  
 aliquor' vel alicujus seu defunct' aut amov'  
 nominare et aligere in Offic' et loc' ill' con-  
 tinuand' usque in vicesimo nono die Septem-  
 bris tunc prox' sequen' et abinde quousque  
 ipse vel alius de novo eligatur continuand'  
 ut predictum est Que quidem persone sic  
 elect' sint et erint respective Gubernator' De-  
 putat' Gubernator' Ballivi et de Common'itat'  
 Societat' predict' in forma predict' ac ipsos  
 Gubernator' Deputat' Gubernator' Ballivos et  
 de Common'itat' Societat' predict' pro nobis  
 heredib' et Successoribus nostris facimus crea-  
 mus et ordinamus per presentes et sic toties  
 quoties casus sic acciderit.

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AC INSUPER volumus ac per presentes pro nobis heredibus et Successoribus nostris concedimus p[re]fat[um] Gubernator[em] Ballivis et Commo[nitat] Societat[em] predict[am] et Successoribus suis quod licebit Gubernator[em] Deputat[um] Gubernator[em] Ballivis et Commo[nitat] Societat[em] predict[am] per Gubernator[em] Societat[em] illius vel Deputat[um] Gubernator[em] Societat[em] predict[am] pro tempore existen[tem] convocat[um] aut major[em] part[em] eor[um] interesse volentium dummodo sex eor[um] ad minus quor[um] unus eor[um] sit Gubernator vel Deputat[us] Gubernator sint present[es] de tempore in tempus pro bono regimine supporta[ti]o[n]e et Publico commodo Societatis predict[ae] facere ordinare stabilire et promulgare Statut[um] leges et Ordina[ti]o[n]es quasunque se ipsos et opera sua in Paludibus illis concernen[tes] ac novis emergentibus malis nova remedia si necesse fuerit statuere et apponere et ea executioni debite mandare Ita tamen quod eadem statut[um] leges Ordina[ti]o[n]es et Decret[um] non sint contrar[ia] statut[um] et legibus hujus Regni nostri Anglie.

ET ULTERIUS volumus ac per presentes pro nobis heredibus et Successoribus nostris ordinamus et constituimus quod p[re]fat[us] Comes Bedd[us] superius in presentibus n[ost]rat[us] fore Gubernator[em] Societat[em] predict[am] et quilibet al[ius] de tempore in tempus in Offic[io] ill[ud] eligend[us] antequam ad exercitiu[m] Offic[ii] Gubernator[is] Societat[is] predict[ae] admittatur vel in eodem Offic[io] se intromittat Sacramentum corporal[iter] super sanct[is] Dei Evangelia ad Offic[io] ill[ud] bene et fideliter in omnibus et per omnia Offic[io] ill[ud] tangen[tes] exequend[um] coram predict[is] Deputat[is] Gubernator[ibus] Ballivis et Societat[is] predict[ae] aut tribus vel

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Pluribus eor' quor' Deputat' Gubernator' aut  
 unus Ballivor' sit unus prestabit Quibus qui-  
 dem Deputat' Gubernator' Ballivis et Socie-  
 tat' et quibuscumque tal' tribus vel pluribus eor'  
 tal' Sacrament' ut prefertur prefat' Comiti  
 Bedd' et cuilibet al' de tempore in tempus in  
 Offic' ill' eligend' administrand' et de ipso  
 suscipiend' plenam potestatem et auctoritatem  
 damus et concedimus per presentes.

**VOLUMUS ETIAM** ac per presentes  
 pro nobis heredibus et Successoribus nostris  
 ordinamus et constituimus quod prefat' Milo  
 Sandis Miles et Baronett' Thomas Tyringham  
 Miles et Milo Sandis Miles et quilibet al' in  
 Offic' Deputat' Gubernator' seu Ballivor' So-  
 cietat' predict' antequam ad exercit' Offic'  
 Deputat' Gubernator' vel Ball' admittantur  
 vel in eisdem Offic' se intromittant Sacrament'  
 corporal' super sanct' Dei Evangel' ad Offic'  
 ill' bene et fideliter in omnibus et per omnia  
 Offic' ill' tangen' exequend' coram Guberna-  
 tor' Ballivis et Commo'nitat' Societat' predict'  
 vel aliquibus duobus vel plur' eor' quibus tal'  
 Sacrament' ut prefertur prefat' Miloni Sandis  
 Militi et Baronett' Thome Tyringham et  
 Miloni Sandis Militibus et cuilibet al' de  
 tempore in tempus in Offic' ill' eligend' ad-  
 ministrand' et de se ipsis suscipiend' potestatem  
 similiter damus et auctoritatem per presentes  
 et hoc absque aliqua Commissione aut ulter'  
 Warrant' a nobis Heredibus et Successoribus  
 nostris in hac parte procurand' aut obtinend' et  
 quod bene liceat Gubernator' et Ballivis Socie-  
 tat' predict' pro tempore existen' formam Ju-  
 ramenti idoneam per singul' Societat' ejusdem  
 eor'que

eor'que minister' et servien' prestand' ordinare  
 Ac eisdem Gubernator' Deputat' Gubernator'  
 et Ballivis et Successoribus suis licenciam simi-  
 liter et potestatem damus et concedimus quod  
 bene liceat et licebit Gubernator' Deputat'  
 Gubernator' et Ballivis de singulis de Societat'  
 predict' Sacrament' in forma predict' prestand'  
 recipere Et hoc absque aliqua Commissione  
 seu ulterior' Warrant' a nobis hered' et Suc-  
 cessoribus nostris in ea parte procurand' aut  
 continend'.

AC DE uberiori gracia nostra speciali ac  
 certa sciencia et mero motu nostris dedi-  
 mus et concessimus predict' Gubernator' Balli-  
 vis et Commo'nitat' Societat' predict' et Suc-  
 cessoribus suis canservac'oem omnium Aquar'  
 Ripar' infra Palud' et loca Palustria predict'  
 tam existen' quam deinceps futur' Ac pro no-  
 bis heredibus et Successoribus nostris volumus  
 ac eisdem Gubernator' Ballivis et Commo'ni-  
 tat' Societat' predict' et Successoribus suis con-  
 cedimus quod ipsi et Successores sui sint imper-  
 petuum Conservatores Aquar' et Ripar' pre-  
 dict' Ac ipsos et Successores suos Aquar' et  
 Ripar' predict' ad Retia Kedellos et omnia al'  
 Angina Stagna et molendin' et al' nocument'  
 in Aquis et Ripar' predict' posita seu im-  
 poster' ponend' contra leges et consuetud'  
 Regni nostri Anglie per se vel per ministros  
 suos arrestand' capiend' et comburend' et ad  
 singul' in Aquis et Ripar' predict' scrutand'  
 sciend' et exequend' que aliqui Conservator'  
 aliqujus Aque vel Ripar' scrutar' facer' vel exe-  
 qui valeant, facimus ordinamus et constitui-  
 mus per presentes Ac pro nobis hered' et suc-  
 cessoribus



cessoribus volumus ac per presentes ulterius concedimus eisdem Gubernator' Ballivis et Commo'nitat' et Successoribus suis ac singulis Gubernator' ac Deputat' Gubernator' et Ballivis Societat' predict' pro tempore existen',

QUOD ipsi et duo vel plures eor' habeant de cetero imperpetuum potestatem inquirendam per Sacramentum probor' et legalium hominum Comitatu' ill' et aliis viis et modis quibus convenit de omnibus transgress' et delict' contra formam Statutu' vel contra legem et consuetudinem Regni nostri Anglie in Aquis et Ripar' predict' factis commiss' vel perpetrat' seu fieri committend' vel perpetrand' eaque omnia singul' audiend' terminand' et eos qui convicti fuerint puniend' per fines amerciamen' et al' penas secundum leges et consuetudinem Regni nostri Anglie.

CONCESSIMUS etiam predict' Gubernator' Ballivis et Societat' et Successoribus suis omnimodas penas fines amerciamen' bona catalla propter aliqua delict' in Aquis et Ripar' predict' contra formam statutu' vel contra legem vel consuetudinem Regni nostri Anglie forisfactis adjudicat' vel imposter' forisfaciend' vel iudicand' Ac quod ipsi et Successores sui habeant de transgressoribus et delinquentibus in Aquis et Ripar' predict' et al' in quor' malis extiterint vel invent' fuerint vel ea solvere debeant ac omni huiusmodi fines amerciamen' bona et catalla per se et ministros suos levare percipere et gaudere ad opus et usum dictorum Gubernator' Ballivor' et Commo'nitat' Societat' predict' et Successor' suorum absque aliquibus tractat' inde in Scaccario nostro hereditariis et

cessor' nostror' mittend' vel retornand' et abs-  
que aliqua impetic'oe nostr' hered' vel suc-  
cessor' nostror' aut al' ministror' quor'cunque  
et in commodum et easiament' hominum  
in partibus predict' habitan' Et ut alii ad inco-  
lend' partes ill' melius adducantur ex feriar' et  
mercat' Vicinitate.

ULTERIUS VOLUMUS ac per pre-  
sentes pro nobis heredibus et successoribus  
nostris concedimus predict' Comiti Bedd' Do-  
minc Maner' de Thorney heredibus et affig-  
natis suis quod ipsi habeant unum Mercat' in  
die Jovis qualibet septimana infra predict'  
Maner' de Thorney Necnon duas ferias annu-  
atim imperpetuum apud Thorney predict' una  
eor' in primo die Maii incipien' et per tot'  
illum diem et duos dies prox' eundem diem  
sequen' annuatim continuand' et duratur' ac al-  
tera ear'dem fer' ibidem primo die Septem-  
bris incipien' et per tot' ill' diem et duos  
dies eundem diem prox' sequen' continuand'  
et duratur' tenend' unacum Cur' ped' Pulve-  
rizat' ibidem tempore dict' mercat' et fer' sive  
Nundin' tenend' unacum rac'onabil' Tolnet'  
Stallag' et Piccag' pro seldis seu rebus ve-  
nalibus in feriis vel mercat' predict' vend'  
exposit' ac cum omnibus libertatibus et liber'  
consuetud' fin' amerciamen' ac omnibus al'  
profic' commoditat' et emolument' quibuscun-  
que ad hujusmodi mercat' et ferias sive Nun-  
din' et Cur' Ped' pulverizat' pertinen' Ita-  
tamen quod predict' Mercat' et fer' sive Nun-  
din' aut eor' alter non sint vel sit ad nocu-  
mentum al' Vicin' Mercat' Nundin' sive  
Fer'.

ET ULTERIUS de uberiori gracia nostra certa sciencia et mero motu nostris volumus et per presentes pro nobis heredibus et successoribus nostris concedimus prefat' Miloni Sandis Militi et Baronetto D'no Maner' de Stretham heredibus et assignat' suis quod ipsi habeant unum Mercat' in die Jovis qualibet septimana infra Manerium de Stretham in Insula Elien' Necnon duas ferias annuatim imperpetuum apud Stretham predict' una ear' in Festo sancti Marci incipien' et per tot' ill' diem et duos dies prox' sequen' eundem festum annuatim continuand' et duratur' alter' ear'dem fer' ibidem in festo sancti Mathei Apostoli incipien' et per tot' ill' diem et duos dies eund' Fest' prox' sequen' continuand' et duratur' tenend' unacum Cur' Ped' Pulverizat' ibidem tempore dict' mercat' ac fer' sive nundin' tenend' unacum rac'onabil' Tolnet' Stallag' et Piccag' pro feldis seu rebus venal' in feriis et mercat' predict' vendic'oi exposu' Ac cum omnibus libertat' et liberis consuetud' fin' amerciament' ac omnibus al' profic' commoditat' et emolument' quibuscunque ad hujusmodi mercat' fer' sive Nundin' et Cur' Ped' Pulverizat' pertinen' Ita tamen quod predict' mercat' et fer' non sint vel sit ad nocumentum al' vicinor' mercator' nundin' sive fer'.

QUARE VOLUMUS ac per presentes pro nobis heredibus et Successor' nostris firmiter precipimus et mandamus quod prefat' Comes Bedd' et Milo et hered' et Assign' sui respective habeant predict' fer' et mercat' sicut predict' est unacum Cur' Ped' Pulverizat' ibidem

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dem tempore dict' Mercat' et fer' five Nundin' tenend' unacum rac'onabil' Tolnet' Stal-lag' Piccag' pro feldis seu rebus venal' in fer' vel Mercat' predict' vendic'on' exposu' ac cum omnibus libertat' et liberis consuetud' fin'amerciamen' ac omnibus al' profic' commodi-rat' et emolument' predict' seu ad hujusmodi Mercat' et fer' five Nundin' pertinen' Ita tamen quod predict' Mercat' et fer' et eor' alter respective non sint vel sit ad nocu-ment' al' vicinor' Mercat' fer' five Nundin'; **NON OBSTANTE** quod breve nos-trum de ad quod dampnum aut aliquod aliud breve a Cancellar' nostra non emanavit ad inquirend' de feriis five Nundin' et Mer-cat' predict' aut eor' aliquo ante consec'coem presencium.

**VOLUMUS INSUPER** ac per presentes pro nobis heredibus et Successoribus nostris concedimus prefat' Gubernator' et Commo'nita't' Societat' predict' et Successoribus suis et singul' eor' tam present' quam futur' licenciam et facultatem quod ipsi infra planiciem Palud' predict' in aliquibus locis congruis quovis vo-luerint Eccles' et Capell' cum Cancell' et Campanil' de novo erigere edificare et fundare et quasdam perticul' teri' suar' Eccles' five Capell' ill' adjacen' ad Cemeter' inde faciend' includere. Ac Eccles' vel Capell' ill' sic con-struct' et fundat' Baptisterio et al' ad Sacra-ment' et alior' divinor' administracon' necessar' instruere et ornare valeant et possint dictasque Ecclesias et Cemeter' per Ordinari' illius loci ubi construct' fuerint consecrari et juxta leges



ET ULTERIUS de uberiori gracia nostra certa sciencia et mero motu nostris volumus et per presentes pro nobis heredibus et successoribus nostris concedimus prefat' Miloni Sandis Militi et Baronetto D'no Maner' de Stretham heredibus et assignat' suis quod ipsi habeant unum Mercat' in die Jovis qualibet septimana infra Manerium de Stretham in Insula Elien' Necnon duas ferias annuatim imperpetuum apud Stretham predict' una ear' in Festo sancti Marci incipien' et per tot' ill' diem et duos dies prox' sequen' eundem festum annuatim continuand' et duratur' alter' ear'dem fer' ibidem in festo sancti Mathei Apostoli incipien' et per tot' ill' diem et duos dies eund' Fest' prox' sequen' continuand' et duratur' tenend' unacum Cur' Ped' Pulverizat' ibidem tempore dict' mercat' ac fer' sive nundin' tenend' unacum rac'onabil' Tolnet' Stallag' et Piccag' pro feldis seu rebus venal' in feriis et mercat' predict' vendic'oi exposit' Ac cum omnibus libertat' et liberis consuetud' fin' amerciamen' ac omnibus al' profic' commoditat' et emolument' quibuscunque ad hujusmodi mercat' fer' sive Nundin' et Cur' Ped' Pulverizat' pertinen' Ita tamen quod predict' mercat' et fer' non sint vel sit ad nocumentum al' vicinor' mercator' nundin' sive fer'.

QUARE VOLUMUS ac per presentes pro nobis heredibus et Successor' nostris firmiter precipimus et mandamus quod prefat' Comes Bedd' et Milo et hered' et Assign' sui respective habeant predict' fer' et mercat' sicut predict' est unacum Cur' Ped' Pulverizat' ibidem

dem tempore dict' Mercat' et fer' sive Nundin' tenend' unacum rac'onabil' Tolnet' Stal-  
lag' Piccag' pro seldis seu rebus venal' in fer'  
vel Mercat' predict' vendic'on' exposu' ac cum  
omnibus libertat' et liberis consuetud' fin'  
amerciamen' ac omnibus al' profic' commodi-  
tat' et emolument' predict' seu ad huiusmodi  
Mercat' et fer' sive Nundin' pertinen' Ita  
tamen quod predict' Mercat' et fer' et eor'  
alter respective non sint vel sit ad nocu-  
ment' al' vicinor' Mercat' fer' sive Nundin';  
**NON OBSTANTE** quod breve nos-  
trum de ad quod dampnum aut aliquod  
aliud breve a Cancellar' nostra non emanavit  
ad inquirend' de feriis sive Nundin' et Mer-  
cat' predict' aut eor' aliquo ante confec'coem  
presencium.

**VOLUMUS INSUPER** ac per presentes  
pro nobis heredibus et Successoribus nostris  
concedimus prefat' Gubernator' et Commo'ni-  
tat' Societat' predict' et Successoribus suis et  
singul' eor' tam present' quam futur' licenciam  
et facultatem quod ipsi infra planiciem Palud'  
predict' in aliquibus locis congruis quovis vo-  
luerint Eccles' et Capell' cum Cancell' et  
Campanil' de novo erigere edificare et fundare  
et quasdam perticul' teri' suar' Eccles' sive  
Capell' ill' adjacen' ad Cemeter' inde faciend'  
includere. Ac Eccles' vel Capell' ill' sic con-  
struct' et fundat' Baptisterio et al' ad Sacra-  
ment' et alior' divinor' administracon' necessari'  
instruere et ornare valeant et possint dictasque  
Ecclesias et Cemeter' per Ordinari' illius loci  
ubi construct' fuerint consecrari et juxta leges

Ecclesiasticas Regni nostri Anglie dedicari  
causare Ac quod Gubernator Ballivi et Com-  
mo'nitas Societat' predict' et Successores sui et  
singul' eor' Ecclesias vel Capell' ill' fundant' Post  
fundacon' ill' sint imperpetuum Patroni Eccles'  
et Capell' antedict' habeantque jus Patronat'  
cujuslibet ear' et presentandi ad easdem in  
qualibet vacacon' personam idoneam per Or-  
dinar' loci illius Canonice admittend' et insti-  
tuend' et debite induci mandand'.

**VOLUMUS ETIAM** Ac per presentes  
pro nobis heredibus et Successoribus nostris  
concedimus singul' Episcopis Ordinari' et aliis  
tam presentibus quam futur' quor' in hac parte  
interest quod ipsi et eor' singul' Eccles' sive  
Capell' predict' cum construct' fuerint ac Ce-  
meter' ear' consecrare et in honorem divinum  
dedicare valeant et possint Et quod Eccles' sive  
Capell' ill' postquam fuerint consecrat' in-  
quilinis et Inhabitantibus ad divina celebrand' Sa-  
crament' Cene Domini administrand' et susci-  
piend' nuptias celebrand' parvul' baptizand'  
mortuos sepeliend' et ad omnia al' que ad Ec-  
cles' vel Capell' et Cemeter' pertinent defer-  
viant Ac quod Rectores alicujus vel aliquar'  
Eccles' sive Capell' predict' respective et dis-  
tincte sint et erint Corpus corporat' et Politi-  
cum habentes Successionem perpetuam eisque  
liceat Messuag' terr' tenement' ac Rectorias  
Decimas porco'es et al' Hereditament' in feod'  
simplici in Jur' Ecclesie sive Ecclesiar' vel  
Capell' illar' acquirere et possidere Ac ut eis-  
dem Rector' de sustentac' competent' respec-  
tive provideatur.

DAMUS

**DAMUS ETIAM** tenore presentium prefat' Gubernator' Ballivis et Communitat' Societat' predict' et Successoribus suis et singul' eor' tam presentibus quam futur' licenciam et facultatem quod ipsi aliquas terras infra Planiciem Palud' predict' vel al' cum soluc'oe decimar' fruct' et al' ibidem renovan' Prout eis melius videbitur expedire eisdem Rectoribus onerare et quamlibet Eccles' sive Capell' predict' et Rectores ejusdem et Successores suos cum decimis tam majoribus quam minoribus real' et personal' mixt' de terris predict' crescent' et renovan' Et cum tal' Eccles' sive Capell' et cum decimar' oblat'ion' et proventibus ad Eccles' ill' pertinent' et Mansionibus terr' et tenement' suis propriis dotare et ea Rectori alicujus tal' Eccles' sive Capell' pro tempore existen' et Successoribus suis in feod' Possidend' imperpetuum dare et concedere valeant et possint et cuilibet tal' Rectori et Successoribus suis respective ea omnia acquirend' et tenend' licenciam similiter damus et concedimus per presentes Statut' de terris et tenementis ad manum mortuum non ponend' non obitan' salvo jure Rector' et Vicar' cujuslibet Ecclesie Matricis in cujus Paroch' Ecclesie vel Capell' ill' de novo fundat' fuerint. Et quia structur' et perpetua manuten'cio Pontium factar' et preservac'io multor' Cataractor' Rivor' alior'que locor' Aquas et eor' Ripas obducendor' infra Palud' predict' imposter' edificand' erigend' vel faciend' pro commodo et utilitate Reipublice immensas exigerunt denar' sum';

VOLUMUS



VOLUMUS et concedimus prefat' Gubernator' Ballivis et Como'nitat' Societat' predict' et Successoribus suis per presentes quod bene liceat et licebit eis capere habere et recipere sibi et Successoribus suis rac'onabil' Tolnet' sequen' pro omnibus averlis et carucis super Pontes ill' de novo erect' vel per Gubernator' Ballivos et Commo'nitat' Societat' predict' et Successores suos erigend' transeuntibus, videlicet pro qualibet Caruca onerat' quatuor denar' et non onerat' duos denar' pro quolibet Equo five Equa onerat' duos denar' et si non onerat' un' denar' pro viginti bidentibus Vitul' five Porcis duos denar' et sic pro rata pro quolibet viginti Bobus five Vaccis quatuor denar' et sic pro rata Et pro qualibet Cimba subtus predict' Pont' per Seweras vel loca predicta de novo fact' et manurent' per predict' Gubernator' Ballivos et Commo'nitat' Societat' predict' transeun' et navigan' non exceden' quatuor tunellos quatuor denar' et pro qualibet major' Cimba octo Denar' pro qualibet Cimba per Cataractas de novo fact' et manurent' ut predictum est non continen' quatuor tunellos quatuor denar' et pro major' Cimba octo denar' et pro qualibet persona in hujusmodi Cimba et Cataract' predict' transeun' obolum Et ut tenentes omnium et aliquar' predict' terr' melius dignoscantur et super quamcunque causam rac'onabil' bonum Publicum ejusdem Societatis concernen' taxentur et assidentur contribuere ad supportand' grandia onera et Expens' ejusdem;

SUMUJOY

VOLUMUS

**VOLUMUS** quod omnia scripta et evidentia per quas aliqua pars dictae terrae aliquo qualiter conveiat et assurata fuerit ab uno ad alium per partes perquirentes irrotulabuntur coram Gubernatore Ballivis et Societate predicta in libro ea de causa publice conservanda vel per ministros suos infra spacium trium Mensium proximo post data dictorum scripta sive Evidentia pro rationabili denario summo Clerico vel alio Officiario pro labore suo in ea parte sustinenda solvenda.

**VOLUMUS** tamen quod si aliquis tenens vel Inhabitans ibidem per spacium trium Mensium ut presertur scripta et Evidentia sua de aliqua parte Premissorum fienda non irrotulabit seu irrotulari causabit quod tunc franchise libertate Immunitate et privilegia predicta in presentibus contenta minime gaudebit.

**CUMQUE** notorium satis est et manifestum quod opus tam arduum non sine multo labore et oneribus perficitur Quodque parvi erit nisi continua supervisione labore expensis et Consilio haud mediocri preservatum sit ut igitur Gubernator Ballivi et Communitas Societate predicta et singuli Inhabitantes predicti sint eidem sedulo magis intendentes et auxiliantes et in Domibus locis et possessionibus suis cum illuc post tanta onera et labores causa recreacionis aut solacii se divertant absque omni metu inquietudinis molestie seu gravaminis lete et pacifice stare possint et morari.

DE

DE uberiori gracia nostra speciali concessimus pro nobis heredibus et Successoribus nostris Gubernator' Ballivis et Commo'nitat' Societat' predict' et singul' eor' et Successoribus suis Et volumus quod nullus eor' ponatur extra libertat' precinct' Palud' predict' in Assis' Jurat' attinct' Recogni'con' seu Inquisi'con' aliquibus licet tangant nos heredes vel Successores nostros aut alios quoscumque Et quod nullus eor' fiat extra Palud' predict' Collector Decimar' quintar' Decimar' taxar' tallagior' aut al' onerum quotar' seu imposic'on' quor'cumque nobis heredibus vel Successoribus nostris imposter' quomodolibet concedend' seu dand' neque sint vel sit Constabular' Receptor' Ballivus aut Officiar' nostr' aut hered' vel successor' nostror' extra libertat' predict' contra voluntat' suas.

VOLUMUS ETIAM ac per pre-sentes concedimus prefat' Gubernator' Ballivis et Commo'nitat' Societat' predict' quod habeant et habebunt has literas nostras Parentes sub magno Sigillo nostro Anglie debito modo fact' et sigillat' absque fine seu feod' magno seu parvo nobis in hanapero nostro seu alibi ad usum nostrum quoquo modo reddend' solvend' vel faciend'.

EO QUOD expressa mencio de vero valore annuo aut de certitudine premissor' sive eor' alicujus aut de aliis Donis sive Concessionibus per nos seu per aliquem Progenitor' sive Predecessor' nostror' prefat' Gubernator' Ballivis et Commo'nitat' Societat' predict' ante hec tempora fact' in presentibus minime fact'

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fact' existit aut aliquo Statut' Actu Ordina-  
 c'oe Provisione Proclamac'oe five Restric-  
 c'oe in contrar' antehac habit' fact' edit'  
 ordinat' five provis' aut aliqua al' re causa  
 vel materia quacunque in aliquo non obstan'.

IN CUJUS rei testimonium has literas  
 nostras fieri fecimus Patentes Teste me ipso  
 apud Westmonasterium tercio decimo die  
 Marcii Anno Regni nostri decimo.

Per Breve de privato Sigillo.

WOLSELEY.





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THE  
CHARTER  
OF  
INCORPORATION,

Bearing Date the 13th of *March*, the 10th of  
*Charles* the First.

Translated into *English*.

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THE  
CHARTER  
OF  
INCORPORATION

Bearing Date the 13th of March, the 10th of  
Charles the First.

Translated into English.

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CHARLES, by the Grace of  
God, of *England, France* and  
*Ireland* King, Defender of the  
Faith, &c.

To all to whom these Presents  
shall come greeting.

**W**HEREAS at a Sessions of Recital of the  
Sewers, holden at *King's Lynn* *Lynn* Law.  
in our County of *Norfolk*, the  
13th Day of *January* in the  
sixth Year of our Reign, concerning the drain-  
ing of the Fens and Marthy Grounds in our  
Counties of *Northampton, Norfolk, Suffolk,*  
*Lincoln, Cambridge, Huntingdon,* and the Isle  
of *Ely*, lying within the Limits of our Com-  
mission, in the Presence of our dearly belo-  
ved and faithful Cousin *Francis* Earl of *Bed-*  
*ford*, and before Sir *Robert Heath*, Knight,  
our then Attorney General, Sir *Miles Sandys*,  
Knight and Baronet, and divers others to the  
Number of forty and one, Commissioners of  
Sewers then and there assembled, by Virtue  
of our Commission of Sewers to them and  
others directed, many good and wholesome  
Acts, Ordinances and Decrees were made by  
F our



our Commissioners, for and concerning the draining of the said Fens and Marshy Grounds.

**And whereas** as well our Commissioners aforesaid, as the People there, whom the draining the said drowned Lands did concern, humbly besought of the aforesaid Earl of *Bedford*, that he the said Earl himself would be pleased to undertake so great and famous a Work, conducive as well to the Good of the People of the said Counties as of the Earl himself; to which Prayers and Entreaties the said Earl consenting, did agree to undertake the aforesaid Work. And thereupon it was enacted, adjudged, ordained, and decreed, that for a Remcompence of the great Labour and Expence of the said Earl in performing the said Work, he should have ninety five-thousand Acres of the said Land, to be indifferently allotted and set out to him, of the several Sorts and Qualities of the said Grounds, according to their several Natures and Goodness, by six of the said Commissioners. And to the Intent that as well the said Earl might with greater Confidence undertake and perform the said Work, and enjoy the said ninety-five thousand Acres, as that the People of the said Counties might have and enjoy the Advantage they expected, from the Remainder of the drowned Lands, in lieu of the Proportion they had given up, as aforesaid:—It was mutually and fully agreed upon, by and between the said Commissioners and the said Earl, that they should become humble Suitors to us, that we would, under our great Seal of *England*, release all the Benefit which by a Law of Sewers, made in the nineteenth

nineteenth Year of the Reign of our late most dearly beloved Father, King *James*, or by any other Law of Sewers, we might claim; and also that we would be pleased to confirm their Acts or Decrees, and, by our Royal Hand signing the same, to declare our Royal Approbation thereof, and Assent thereunto. And that we would further graciously be pleased to recommend the same to the Right Honourable the Lord Keeper of our Great Seal, that they may in due Form of Law be confirmed and ratified, by Decree of our Honourable High Court of Chancery. And that we would vouchsafe to recommend the same to the Right Honourable the Lords and others of our most Honourable Privy Council, to be by them ordered as a Matter of State, not to be altered or impeached, having received the Approbation of that Honourable Board; and that whensoever a Parliament should be called, and a Bill being then preferred to the two Houses of that High Court of Parliament, and the same being there passed as a Law, that we would be graciously pleased, for the full and final Confirmation thereof, to give our Royal Assent thereunto. And that we would be graciously pleased, for these our Royal Favours, vouchsafed to this poor distressed Part of our Country which could receive no Relief or Help, but by our Royal Hands in giving Life to their Laws, to accept of the Quantity of twelve thousand Acres, Parcel of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, to be assured to us, our Heirs and Successors, freed and discharged of and from all Right, Title, or Interest of Common, or otherwise to be claimed or demanded by the

said Earl, or any other Person or Persons whatsoever. The said twelve thousand Acres to be laid together in one or two entire Pieces, or Quantities, out of such of the said drowned Lands as now are Parcel of the Manor of *Whittlesea*, or other Manors thereto adjoining; which Quantity of twelve thousand Acres the said Earl and Country, by an unanimous Consent, have humbly offered unto us, as a thankful Acknowledgment of our gracious Favour, in recommending the said Work, and perfecting the same, with our Royal Favour and Assent as aforesaid; which voluntary and free Offering of the said Earl and our People we have most graciously accepted, and by these Presents do accept.

Recital of former Letters Patents.

**And whereas** we, highly favouring the aforesaid great, arduous, and praise-worthy Work, have declared our Approbation of the said Acts and Decrees, by our Royal Hand signing the same. And we have, for the better Government, Progress, and Completion of the aforesaid Work, by our Letters Patents lately on this Behalf granted, made, appointed, and created the said Earl, and others of our Subjects, a Body politic, by the Name of Governor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty of the Company of Conservators of the Fens in our Counties of *Cambridge, Huntingdon, Northampton, Lincoln, Norfolk, Suffolk*, and the Isle of *Ely*, and have thereby invested them with divers Gifts, Grants, Liberties, Rights, and Immunities.

**And whereas** in the said Letters Patents it is set forth, that in Consideration of our granting the said Charter, the aforesaid Governor,

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vernor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty of the Society  
 aforefaid, promised to grant unto us, our  
 Heirs and Successors, twelve thousand Acres  
 within the Level of the Fens aforefaid, not co-  
 vered with Water, but drained, in proper Places,  
 on the View of Viewers to be appointed by  
 our Treasurer of *England*, to be held free of  
 all common, and other Charges and Services,  
 which said Twelve thousand Acres, named in  
 the aforefaid Acts, Ordinances, and Decrees of  
 our Commissioners aforefaid, and the aforefaid  
 twelve thousand Acres mentioned in our Let-  
 ters Patents aforefaid, are intended to be one  
 and the same twelve thousand Acres, and  
 not others and different; Know ye there-  
 fore that we, willing to take away entirely all  
 Doubts and Questions which may in any wise  
 hereafter arise thereon, and likewise declaring  
 by these Presents that we are fully satisfied with  
 the twelve thousand Acres, granted or menti-  
 oned to be granted to us, our Heirs and Suc-  
 cessors, as set forth in the aforefaid Acts and  
 Decrees, have, of our special Grace, from our  
 own certain Knowledge and meer Motion, for-  
 given, remised, released, and quitted Claim,  
 and by these Presents for us, our Heirs and Suc-  
 cessors, do forgive, remise, release, and quit  
 Claim to the aforefaid Governor, Bailiffs and  
 Commonalty of the Society aforefaid, and  
 their Successors, the aforefaid twelve thousand  
 Acres, promised or mentioned to be promised  
 in these our said Letters Patents, and every Par-  
 cel thereof, and all our Right, Title, Claim, In-  
 terest and Demand whatever, of, in, and to  
 the said twelve thousand Acres, or any Parcel  
 thereof,



thereof, by Virtue or Colour of our said Letters Patents afore recited; and also all and singular Promises, or Pretences of Promise, of and concerning the afore said twelve thousand Acres of Land in our said Letters Patents contained and expressed, or in any wise touching the same. Saving always to ourselves, our Heirs and Successors, the afore said twelve thousand Acres, in the afore said Act, Ordinances, and Decrees of our Commissioners of Sewers afore said expressed, and to us, our Heirs and Successors granted or mentioned to be granted.

Letters Patents above recited surrendered up.

**And whereas** the afore said Governor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty of the Society afore said, have humbly besought us to accept from them of the Surrender of our said Letters Patents before mentioned, but with an Intention that we would vouchsafe to grant them other Letters Patents, with the same and other Gifts, Powers, Privileges, and Immunities conducive to the promoting of the Work afore said; which Surrender we have accepted, and do accept by these Presents.

Earl of Bedford and his Participants will endeavour, at their own Expence, to make the Fens Meadow and Pasture.

**And whereas** our dearly beloved and faithful Cousin, *Francis* Earl of Bedford afore said, and others of our loving Subjects his Participants, consenting to the Entreaties of many, have earnestly endeavoured and will endeavour, at their own great Expence, to make the afore said Marshes and Fen Grounds, in our afore said Counties of *Cambridge, Huntingdon, Northampton, Lincoln, Suffolk, and Norfolk*, and the Isle of *Ely*, containing three hundred and sixty thousand Acres of Land,

or

or thereabouts, (from which, being covered with Water, little Advantage redounds to Mankind, except from some few River Fish and Water Fowl) into Land, Meadows and Pasture, to the great Advantage as well of those Parts as of the Public, in which they have made such a Progress, that hereafter, as it was hoped, in those Places, which lately presented nothing to the Eyes of the Beholder but great Waters, and a few Reeds thinly scattered here and there, under the Divine Mercy might be seen pleasant Pastures of Cattle and Kyne, and many Houses belonging to the Inhabitants. But because such a Body of Water cannot always be drained off and kept from those Places, but by the erecting and making of Meers, Banks, Dams, Dykes, Tunnels, Sluices, Bridges, and Causeys, and other Works, and by the continuing and supporting the same, which will require a daily Expence; and to the continual Support of the Charge attending so great a Work, forty thousand Acres of those drained Fens are intended to be set out by proper Bounds, from the Rents, Issues and Profits of which the said Charge is to be born, which cannot be so well managed by Individuals, who are often dying, and who leave their Heirs Minors or Women, by no Means equal to such a Direction, as if the expending the same and the continuing the Premises was intrusted to the Care of discreet Men, in a political and corporate Succession.

**Know ye therefore** that we, taking the Premises into our Consideration, and being

But it cannot be done without Works which require great Expence.  
For which Purpose 40000 Acres to be set out; from Profits of which the Charge is to be born.  
But it cannot be managed but by a Corporation.

Society of  
Conservators  
of the Fens  
made a Body  
Corporate and  
Politic.

Earl of *Bed-*  
*ford* and others  
made the said  
Body by the  
Name of Go-  
vernor, Bai-  
liffs and  
Commonalty  
of the Society  
of Conserva-  
tors of the  
Fens.

willing to aid and assist the Progress and Com-  
pletion of the said Work, by all Means that  
we can, and graciously consenting to the Peti-  
tion of the aforesaid Governor and Commo-  
nalty of the Society, touching the Premises  
aforesaid, of our special Grace, and from our  
certain Knowledge and meer Motion, we will  
that for ever hereafter there be, and shall be  
one Society of Conservators of the Fens,  
within our Counties aforesaid, framed into  
one Body Corporate and Politic. And we  
do for ourselves, our Heirs and Successors,  
make, create and appoint the aforesaid *Fran-*  
*cis* Earl of *Bedford*, and his Participants, *Oli-*  
*ver* Earl of *Bullingbrooke*, *Henry* Lord *Mal-*  
*trevers*, *Edward* Lord *Gorges*, Sir *Francis*  
*Crane*, Knight, Chancellor of the most noble  
Order of the Garter, Sir *Miles Sandys*, Knight  
and Baronet, Sir *Thomas Tyringham*, Knight,  
Sir *Robert Lovett*, Knight, Sir *Filibert Vernatt*,  
Knight, Sir *Miles Sandys*, Knight, *William*  
*Sams*, LL.D. *Oliver Saint John*, Esquire, *An-*  
*thony Hammond*, Esquire, and *Samuel Spalding*,  
Gentleman, and others to be elected in the  
Form hereafter directed, and their Successors,  
in the Society aforesaid, a Body Politic and  
Corporate, in Deed and in Name, to have  
Succession for ever, by the Name of Gover-  
nor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty of the Society  
of Conservators of the Fens, in our Counties  
of *Cambridge*, *Huntingdon*, *Northampton*, *Lin-*  
*coln*, *Norfolk*, and *Suffolk*, and the Isle of  
*Ely*, and by these Presents will that they be  
called by the Name aforesaid; and that  
of them, one be Governor, another De-  
puty

puty Governor, two be Bailiffs, and the rest be of the Commonalty of the Society aforesaid, and that they and others, to be elected and admitted in the Form following into that Society, and their Successors by the same Name, may have perpetual Succession. And that they, and their Successors, be and shall be, in all future Times, Persons fit and capable in Law to have, purchase, possess, and retain Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, to themselves and Successors, in Fee and Inheritance, or for Term of Life or Lives, or Years, and Goods and Chattels, and Rights, and Debts of whatsoever Kind, Nature, or Species. And also to give, assign, demise, and dispose of the said Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, Goods and Chattels; and also that they may, by the Name aforesaid, plead and be impleaded, defend and be defended, in all Courts and Places, and before all the Judges, Justices, Officers, Ministers of us, our Heirs and Successors, in all Actions, Pleas, Complaints, and Demands, in Manner and Form, as any other of our Liege Subjects fit and capable in Law, or as any other Body Politic and Corporate, may and doth.

**Our** Will moreover is, and by these Presents, for ourselves, our Heirs and Successors, we grant to the said Governor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty of the Society aforesaid, That the aforesaid *Francis*, Earl of *Bedford*, be the first and present Governor of the Society aforesaid, and the aforesaid Sir *Miles Sandys*, Knight and Baronet, be the first Deputy Governor, and the aforesaid Sir *Thomas Tyringham*, Knight, and

To have perpetual Succession, purchase Lands and Tenements, and do all other Corporate Acts.

The Earl of *Bedford*, and others, appointed the first Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty.



and Sir *Miles Sandys*, Knight, be and shall be the first and present Bailiffs of the Society aforesaid, and the aforesaid *Oliver* Earl of *Bullingbroke*, *Henry* Lord *Maltrevers*, *Edward* Lord *Gorges*, Sir *Francis Crane*, Knight, Sir *Robert Lovett*, Knight, Sir *Phillibert Vernatt*, Knight, *William Sams*, *Oliver Saint John*, *Anthony Hamond*, and *Samuel Spalding* be and shall be the first and present Commonalty of the Society aforesaid. And we make, ordain, and create the said *Francis*, Earl of *Bedford*, the first and present Governor, and the aforesaid Sir *Miles Sandys*, Knight and Baronet, the first and present Deputy Governor, Sir *Thomas Tyringbam*, Knight, and Sir *Miles Sandys*, Knight, the first and present Bailiffs, *Oliver* Earl of *Bullingbroke*, *Henry* Lord *Maltrevers*, *Edward* Lord *Gorges*, *Francis Crane*, *Robert Lovett*, *Phillibert Vernatt*, *William Samms*, *Oliver Saint John*, *Anthony Hammond*, and *Samuel Spalding* the first and present Commonalty of the Society aforesaid. Which Governor, our Will is, do continue in his Office until the Feast of *St. Michael* the Archangel, which shall be in the Year of our Lord one Thousand six Hundred and Thirty-five, and from thence until he or another be elected into the Place of Governor of the said Society. And that each of the said Bailiffs shall continue in their said Offices respectively until the said Feast, and from thence till they or others are elected into the Place and Office of Bailiffs of the Society aforesaid. And that each of the Commonalty of the Society aforesaid shall respectively continue of the said Common-

Commonalty to the End of their respective Lives, unless for just Cause, any one of the aforesaid Governor, Deputy Governor, Bailiffs, or Commonalty be removed from his Place. And that the said Governor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty of the Society aforesaid, and their Successors, may have a Common Seal, for carrying on any of the Causes or Business of themselves and their Successors; and that it be lawful for them the said Seal at their Will and Pleasure to break and change, and make new, as often and in such manner as to them shall seem fit.

To have a Common Seal, and Power of altering the same.

**And moreover** for ourselves, our Heirs and Successors, we grant to the said Governor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty of the Society aforesaid, in any convenient Place within the Isle of *Ely*, to be fixed upon by the said Governor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty of the Society aforesaid, our Leave to have a certain Council Chamber and Common Hall, and therein on the twenty-ninth Day of *September* in every Year, and oftener if the Necessity of the Case requires it, themselves to assemble and meet, and with the free Choice of the aforesaid Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Society aforesaid, or the major Part of those who will attend, to nominate and elect one discreet and proper Person, out of the Deputy Governor or Commonalty of the said Society, to be Governor of the said Society; who, being so elected, shall remain and continue in the said Office until the twenty-ninth Day of *September* then next following, and from thence until he or some other be

To have a Common Hall, there to meet and assemble, and elect Governor and Deputy Governor, and Bailiffs.

and Sir *Miles Sandys*, Knight, be and shall be the first and present Bailiffs of the Society aforesaid, and the aforesaid *Oliver Earl of Bullingbroke*, *Henry Lord Maltrevers*, *Edward Lord Gorges*, Sir *Francis Crane*, Knight, Sir *Robert Lovett*, Knight, Sir *Phillibert Vernatt*, Knight, *William Sams*, *Oliver Saint John*, *Anthony Hamond*, and *Samuel Spalding* be and shall be the first and present Commonalty of the Society aforesaid. And we make, ordain, and create the said *Francis*, Earl of *Bedford*, the first and present Governor, and the aforesaid Sir *Miles Sandys*, Knight and Baronet, the first and present Deputy Governor, Sir *Thomas Tyringham*, Knight, and Sir *Miles Sandys*, Knight, the first and present Bailiffs, *Oliver Earl of Bullingbroke*, *Henry Lord Maltrevers*, *Edward Lord Gorges*, *Francis Crane*, *Robert Lovett*, *Phillibert Vernatt*, *William Samms*, *Oliver Saint John*, *Anthony Hammond*, and *Samuel Spalding* the first and present Commonalty of the Society aforesaid. Which Governor, our Will is, do continue in his Office until the Feast of St. *Michael* the Archangel, which shall be in the Year of our Lord one Thousand six Hundred and Thirty-five, and from thence until he or another be elected into the Place of Governor of the said Society. And that each of the said Bailiffs shall continue in their said Offices respectively until the said Feast, and from thence till they or others are elected into the Place and Office of Bailiffs of the Society aforesaid. And that each of the Commonalty of the Society aforesaid shall respectively continue of the said Common-

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Commonalty to the End of their respective Lives, unless for just Cause, any one of the aforesaid Governor, Deputy Governor, Bailiffs, or Commonalty be removed from his Place. And that the said Governor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty of the Society aforesaid, and their Successors, may have a Common Seal, for carrying on any of the Causes or Business of themselves and their Successors; and that it be lawful for them the said Seal at their Will and Pleasure to break and change, and make new, as often and in such manner as to them shall seem fit.

To have a Common Seal, and Power of altering the same.

And moreover for ourselves, our Heirs and Successors, we grant to the said Governor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty of the Society aforesaid, in any convenient Place within the Isle of *Ely*, to be fixed upon by the said Governor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty of the Society aforesaid, our Leave to have a certain Council Chamber and Common Hall, and therein on the twenty-ninth Day of *September* in every Year, and oftener if the Necessity of the Case requires it, themselves to assemble and meet, and with the free Choice of the aforesaid Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Society aforesaid, or the major Part of those who will attend, to nominate and elect one discreet and proper Person, out of the Deputy Governor or Commonalty of the said Society, to be Governor of the said Society; who, being so elected, shall remain and continue in the said Office until the twenty-ninth Day of *September* then next following, and from thence until he or some other be

To have a Common Hall, there to meet and assemble, and elect Governor and Deputy Governor, and Bailiffs.



be elected Governor in his Room, unless in the mean Time, for a just Cause, he be duly removed from his Place. And also to nominate and elect one honest and discreet Man to be Deputy Governor of the Society aforesaid, and two others to be Bailiffs of the Society aforesaid; who, being so elected into the said Offices, shall severally remain and continue therein until the twenty-ninth Day of *September* then next following, and from thence until they or some of them, or others, be elected in their Room, unless in the mean time, for just Cause, they or any of them be duly removed from their Places. And also that all those, who are seized of not less than fifty Acres of the said Fen Lands in Fee and Inheritance, may for the Time being admit, elect, and put into the Commonalty of the said Society whomever they will; and also admit, elect, put in others in the Room of those who die or are removed, as often as to them shall seem necessary. And our Will is, that the said Governor, and Deputy Governor, and each of the said Bailiffs, and any of the said Commonalty, be for just Cause removable, and to be removed by a Majority of the Governor, Deputy Governor, and Bailiffs and Commonalty of the said Society as aforesaid, duly summoned, and who shall be present; and if it shall happen that the said Governor, Deputy Governor, or Bailiffs, or any of the Commonalty of the Society aforesaid, do die, or shall be removed, by which his Place or Office shall become vacant, then it shall be lawful for the surviving Governor, Deputy Governor, Bai-

Persons seized  
of not less  
than fifty  
Acres to elect  
Commonalty.

Governor,  
Deputy Go-  
vernor, and  
Commonalty  
to be removed  
on just Cause.

Vacancies on  
Death or Re-  
moval to be  
filled up.

liffs

Bailiffs, and Commonalty of the Society aforesaid, themselves to assemble and meet, and then and there another Person or Persons to be Governor, Deputy Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Society aforesaid, in the Form aforesaid, in the room and stead of them the said Governor, Deputy Governor, Bailiffs or any of the Commonalty, or of any of them, or of any one, either dead or removed, to nominate and elect into their Office and Place, to continue till the twenty-ninth Day of *September* then next following, and from thence until he or another be newly elected; to be continued as aforesaid. Which Persons so elected may and shall be respectively Governor, Deputy Governor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty of the Society aforesaid, in Form aforesaid. And we do by these Presents, for us, our Heirs and Successors, make, create, and appoint them Governor, Deputy Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Society aforesaid, and so as often as the Case shall so happen.

**And moreover** our Will is, and by these Presents we do grant, for ourselves, our Heirs and Successors, to the aforesaid Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Society aforesaid, and their Successors, that it shall be lawful for the said Governor, Deputy Governor, and Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Society aforesaid, being convoked by the Governor, or Deputy Governor, of the Society aforesaid, for the Time being, or the major Part of them which shall be then present, being not less than six in Number, one of which to be the Governor, or Deputy Governor,

Governor,  
Deputy Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty may make Laws and Ordinances for Support of Works, &c.

nor, from Time to Time, for the good Government, Support, and public Advantage of the Society aforesaid, to make, ordain, establish and declare any Statutes, Laws, or Ordinances, touching themselves and their Works in the Fens, and to apply to new Mischiefs that may happen, if it be necessary, new Remedies, and the same to execute, Provided always that the said Statutes, Laws, Ordinances, and Decrees, are not contrary to the Statutes and Laws of this our Realm of *England*.

Governor to  
take an Oath  
of Office.

And further our Will is, and by these Presents for ourselves, our Heirs and Successors, we ordain and appoint, that the aforesaid Earl of *Bedford*, above in these Presents named to be Governor of the Society aforesaid, and every other Person from Time to Time to be elected into that Office, before he be admitted to the Exercise of the Office of Governor of the Society aforesaid, or enter on the said Office, shall take his corporal Oath, on the Holy Evangelists, the said Office well and faithfully in all Thing touching the said Office to execute, before the Deputy Governor, Bailiffs, and Society aforesaid, or any three or more of them, whereof the Governor, or one of the Bailiffs to be one; full Power and Authority to administer such Oath, as aforesaid, to the aforesaid Earl of *Bedford*, or any other to be elected, from Time to Time, into that Office, we, by these Presents, do give and grant to the said Deputy Governor, Bailiffs, and Society, or any three or more of them.

Deputy Governor,  
Bailiffs, and Society to administer Oath.

Our Will moreover is, and by these Pre-Deputy Governor and  
 sents for ourselves, our Heirs and Successors, Bailiffs to  
 we do ordain and appoint that the aforesaid take an Oath  
 Sir *Miles Sandys*, Knight and Baronet, Sir of Office.  
*Thomas Tyringham*, Knight, and Sir *Miles*  
*Sandys*, Knight, and any other that shall here-  
 after be elected into the Office of Deputy  
 Governor, or Bailiffs of the said Society, be-  
 fore they be admitted to exercise the Office of  
 Deputy Governor, or Bailiffs, or enter on  
 the said Office, shall respectively take their  
 corporal Oath upon the Holy Evangelists, the  
 said Office well and faithfully in all Things  
 touching the said Office to execute, before  
 the Governor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty of  
 the Society aforesaid, or any two or more of  
 them, to whom like Power and Authority  
 to give and administer such Oath as aforesaid,  
 to the aforesaid Sir *Miles Sandys*, Knight and  
 and Baronet, Sir *Thomas Tyringham*, and Sir  
*Miles Sandys*, Knights, and every other Per-  
 son from Time to Time into those Offices to  
 be elected, We by these Presents give, and  
 this without any Commission or farther War-  
 rant on this Part from us, our Heirs and Suc-  
 cessors, to be had and obtained; and that it  
 shall be lawful for the Governor and Bailiffs  
 of the Society aforesaid, for the Time being,  
 to appoint a proper Form of Oath, to be ta-  
 ken by all the Members of the said Society,  
 their Officers and Servants; and we give and  
 grant like Power to the said Governor, Deputy  
 Governor, and Bailiffs, and their Successors, for  
 them, the said Governor, Deputy Governor and  
 Bailiffs, to administer to, and take from all the  
 Members

Governor and  
 Bailiffs may  
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Conservacy of  
Waters and  
Banks in the  
Fens given to  
the Corpora-  
tion.

Members of the said Society, the Oath in the Form afore said, and this without any Commission or farther Warrant on this Part from us, our Heirs and Successors, to be had and obtained. **And** farther of our special Grace, certain Knowledge and mere Motion, for ourselves We have given and granted to the afore said Governor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty of the Society afore said, and their Successors, the Conservacy of all Waters and Banks within the Fens and Marsh Grounds afore said, as well those that now are as any that shall hereafter be; and for us, our Heirs and Successors, we will, and we do grant to the said Governor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty of the Society afore said and their Successors, that they and their Successors shall be forever Conservators of the Waters and Banks afore said; and we do, by these Presents, make ordain and constitute to them and their Successors the Power over the Waters and Banks afore said, by themselves or their Servants to seize, take away and burn Nets, Wears, and all other Engines, Staunches, Mills, and other Nufances, in and upon the Waters and Banks afore said placed or hereafter to be placed, contrary to the Laws and Customs of this our Realm of *England*, and all Things to erect, make and execute, in and upon the said Waters and Banks, which any other Conservators of any Waters and Banks may do. And for ourselves, our Heirs and Successors, our Will is, and by these Presents we do further grant to the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty and their Successors, and to every Governor, Deputy Governor, and

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Bailiffs of the Society aforesaid, for the Time being, That they, and two or more of them, may and for ever hereafter shall have a Power of enquiring, by the Oath of twelve honest and lawful Men of those Counties, and by such other Means as are fitting, of all Trespases and Offences against the Form of the Statute, or against the Law and Custom of this our Realm of *England*, in and upon the Waters and Banks aforesaid done, committed or perpetrated, or hereafter to be done, committed or perpetrated, and all and singular the same of hearing and determining, and those who are convicted thereof of punishing by Fines and Amercements, and other Penalties, according to the Laws and Customs of this our Realm of *England*.

Who may enquire by Juries of Nuisances, &c. committed.

And hear and determine the same.

And punish by Fines and Amercements.

**Moreover** we have granted to the aforesaid Governor, Bailiffs, and Society, and their Successors, all Kinds of Penalties, Fines, Amercements, Goods and Chattels, for any Offences in and upon the Waters and Banks aforesaid, against the Form of the Statutes, or against the Law and Custom of this our Realm of *England*, forfeited and adjudged, or that shall be hereafter forfeited and adjudged. And that they, and their Successors, shall have the same of the Trespassers and Offenders in and upon the Waters and Banks aforesaid, and all others, in the Hands of whomsoever they are found, or from whomsoever the same ought to be paid, and all the said Fines and Amercements, Goods and Chattels, by themselves and Servants to seize, receive, and enjoy, to the Use and Behoof of

Said Fines and Amercements granted to the Corpora-  
tion.

the said Governor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty of the Society aforesaid, and their Successors, without any Estreat thereof into the Exchequer of us, our Heirs and Successors, to be sent or returned, and without any Impeachment of us, our Heirs or Successors, or of any of our Officers or Servants.

A weekly Market, and two annual Fairs, granted to the Earl of Bedford, Lord of the Manor of Thorney, to be held at Thorney.

And for the Advantage and Ease of those who live in the Parts aforesaid, and that others may be the better induced, from the Neighbourhood of Fairs and Markets, to inhabit those Parts, our Will farther is, and by these Presents for ourselves, our Heirs and Successors, we grant to the aforesaid Earl of Bedford, Lord of the Manor of Thorney, and his Heirs and Assigns, that they may have one Market on the *Thursday* in every Week within the said Manor of Thorney, and also two Fairs annually for ever at Thorney aforesaid, one of them to begin on the first Day of *May*, and through that Day and the two Days next the same Day following annually, to continue and last; and the other of the said Fairs there, on the first Day of *September* to be begun, and through that whole Day and two Days the same Day next following to be continued and last, together with a Court of Pie Powder there at the Time of the said Market and Fair to be held, together with reasonable Toll, Stallage, and Picage for Stalls, or saleable Things in the said Fair or Market, to Sale exposed. Together with all Liberties and free Customs, Fines, Amercements, and all other Profits, Commodities, and Advantages whatsoever, to such Kinds of Markets

and

and Fairs, and Court of Pie Powder belonging. Provided always that the said Market or Fairs, or either of them, is not, or are not to the Damage of any other neighbouring Markets or Fairs.

And further of our more abundant Grace, certain Knowledge, and mere Motion, we will for ourselves, and by these Presents for us, our Heirs and Successors, we grant to the aforesaid Sir Miles Sandys, Knight and Baronet, Lord of the Manor of *Stretham*, his Heirs and Assigns, that they may have one Market, to be held on the *Thursday* in every Week, within the Manor of *Stretham* in the Isle of *Ely*. And also two Fairs annually for ever to be held at *Stretham* aforesaid, one on the Feast of *St. Mark* to begin, and through that whole Day and the two Days next following the said Feast annually to continue and last; the other of the said Fairs there, on the Feast of *St. Michael* the Apostle to begin, and through that whole Day and the two Days the said Feast next following to continue and last; together with a Court of Pie Powder there, at the Time of the said Market and Fairs to be held, together with reasonable Toll, Stalage, and Picage for Stalls, or saleable Things, in the Fairs and Markets aforesaid to Sale exposed; together with all Liberties, free Customs, Fines, Amercements, and all other Profits, Commodities, and Advantages whatsoever, to such Kind of Markets and Fairs, and Court of Pie Powder belonging. Provided always that the said Market or Fairs, or either of them, is not, or are not to the

Said Market and Fairs not to be to the Prejudice of any neighbouring Fair or Market.

A weekly Market, and two annual Fairs granted to Sir Miles Sandys, Knight and Baronet, to be held at *Stretham*.

Said Market and Fair not to be to the Prejudice of any neighbouring Fair or Market.



Damage of any other neighbouring Markets or Fairs.

Said weekly Markets and Fairs granted to the Earl of Bedford, and Sir Miles Sandys, their Heirs and Assigns respectively, though no Writ of *ad Quod Damnum* hath issued.

**Wherefore** we will, and by these Presents for us, our Heirs and Successors, we strictly charge and command that the aforesaid Earl of Bedford and Sir Miles Sandys, and their Heirs and Assigns respectively, have the aforesaid Fairs, and Markets aforesaid, together with a Court of Pie Powder there at the Time of the said Market and Fairs to be held, together with reasonable Toll, Stallage and Picage for the Stalls, or for Things saleable in the Fairs and Markets aforesaid exposed to Sale, together with all Liberties and free Customs, Fines, Amercements and all other Profits, Commodities and Advantages aforesaid, or in any kind to such Markets and Fairs belonging. Provided always that the said Markets and Fairs, or either of them, do not or are not to the Damage of any other neighbouring Markets or Fairs; notwithstanding our Writ of *ad Quod Damnum*, or any other Writ from our Chancery hath not issued to enquire of the Fairs and Markets aforesaid, or any of them, before the making of these Presents.

Power given to the Corporation to build Churches and Chapels, endow the same, and present thereto.

**We** will moreover, and by these Presents for us, our Heirs and Successors, we grant to the aforesaid Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Society aforesaid, and their Successors and every of them, as well those that now are as those that may be hereafter, Licence and Faculty within the Level of the Fen aforesaid, in any convenient Places they shall choose, Churches and Chapels with Chancel

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and Belfries a-new to erect, build, and found;  
 and to inclose certain Pieces of Land to the  
 said Churches and Chapels adjoining, for the  
 Purposes of making Church Yards thereof;  
 and the Churches and Chapels so built and  
 founded to furnish and adorn with a Font and  
 other things necessary for the Administration  
 of the Sacrament, and other divine Wor-  
 ship; and the said Churches and Church Yards  
 to cause, by the Ordinary of the Place where  
 they are built, to be consecrated and dedicated  
 according to the Ecclesiastical Laws of this  
 our Realm of *England*; and that the said Go-  
 vernor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the So-  
 ciety aforesaid and their Successors, and every  
 of them, such Churches and Chapels so found-  
 ing, after the Foundation thereof, be for ever  
 Patrons of the Churches and Chapels aforesaid,  
 and have the Right of Patronage of  
 every of them, and of presenting to the same  
 on every Vacancy a fit Person, by the Ordinary  
 of the Place canonically to be admitted and  
 instituted, and duly to be inducted, to be com-  
 manded. We will moreover and by these  
 Presents for us, our Heirs and Successors,  
 grant to all Bishops, Ordinaries and others,  
 as well those who now are as those that may  
 be so hereafter whom it may concern, that  
 they and every of them the Churches or  
 Chapels aforesaid when they are built and their  
 Church Yards, may consecrate and dedicate to  
 the Divine Honour; and that those Churches  
 and Chapels, after they shall be consecrated,  
 may serve the Inmares and Inhabitants for the  
 Celebration of Divine Service, for the admi-

Power given  
 to Bishops and  
 Ordinaries to  
 consecrate the  
 said Churches  
 and Chapels.

Rectors of said  
Churches or  
Chapels to be  
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Corporation to  
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Churches and  
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nistring and receiving of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, for the Celebration of Marriage, the Baptizing of Infants, the Burying of the Dead, and all other Things which to Churches and Chapels and Church Yards do belong. And that the Rectors of any one, or any of the said Churches or Chapels respectively, and separately be, and shall be, a Body Corporate and Politic, having Succession for ever; and that it may be lawful for them Messages, Land and Tenements, Glebes and other Hereditaments in Fee Simple, in Right of his Church or those Churches or Chapels, to acquire and possess. And that the said Rectors may be provided with a competent Support respectively, we give moreover by these Presents to the Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Society aforesaid and every of them, as well those that now are as those that may be hereafter, a Licence and Faculty any Lands within the Level of the Fens aforesaid, or others, with the Payment of Tithes, Fruits and other Things there growing, as to them shall seem best, for the said Rectors to charge; and every Church or Chapel aforesaid and the Rectors of the same, and their Successors, with Tithes as well great as small, real, personal and mixt, from the Lands aforesaid growing and renewing to endow, and as well such Churches or Chapels with Tithes, Offerings and Profits to those Churches belonging as with Houses, Lands and Tenements for them proper to endow, and all those Things to the Rector of any such Church or Chapel for the Time be-

ing



ing and his Successors in fee to be possessed for ever, to give and grant; and to every such Rector and his Successors respectively all those Things to acquire and hold, by these Presents we likewise give and grant a Licence, notwithstanding the Statute of *Mortmain*; saving always to every Rector or Vicar of every Mother Church in whose Parish Churches or Chapels shall be founded a-new, all his just Rights.

Notwithstanding Statute of *Mortmain*.  
Saving to Rector and Vicar of every Mother Church.

And because the Building and constant Preservation of Bridges made, and the Preservation of many Sluices, Rivers and other Places hereafter to be built, erected and made to bring the Waters within their Banks for the Advantage and Utility of the Public, would require great Sums of Money, We will and grant to the aforesaid Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Society aforesaid and their Successors by these Presents, that it shall and may be lawful for them to take, have and receive to themselves and their Successors, the reasonable Toll following. For all Horses and Carts to pass over the Bridges newly erected, or by the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Society aforesaid and their Successors to be erected, to wit, for every loaded Cart four Pence, if it is not loaded two Pence, for every Horse or Mare loaded two Pence, and if they are not loaded one Penny; for twenty Sheep, Calves or Hogs two Pence, and so in Proportion for every twenty Oxen or Cows four Pence, and so in Proportion. And for every Boat passing and navigating under such Bridge as above said,

Corporation empowered for Maintenance of Works to take Tolls.

Tolls specified.



said, through the Drains or Places aforesaid made a-new and maintained by the aforesaid Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Society aforesaid, not exceeding four Ton, four Pence, and for every larger Boat eight Pence, for every Boat passing through the Sluices a-new made and maintained as aforesaid, under four Ton, four Pence, and for every larger Boat eight Pence, and for every Person in such Boat passing such Sluice as aforesaid one Halspenny.

Deeds to be enrolled or registered within three Months after the Date.

And that the Owners of all or any of the Lands aforesaid may be the better known, and on any reasonable Cause respecting the public Good of the said Society, may be taxed and assessed to contribute to the Support of the great Burthen and Expence thereof, We will that all Deeds and Evidence by which any Part of the said Land shall by any Means be conveyed and assured from one to another, shall by the Purchasors or their Agents be enrolled before the Governor, Bailiffs and Society aforesaid, in a Book for that Purpose to be publicly kept, within three Months next after the Date of the said Deeds or Evidence, for a reasonable Sum to be paid the Clerk or other Officer for his Trouble therein had.

On Failure therein Party neglecting, to forfeit Franchises and Liberties in these Presents contained.

And we will that if any Owner or Occupier there shall not within the Space of three Months as aforesaid enrol or cause to be enrolled his Deeds and Evidence to be made of any Part of the Premises, that in such Case he shall by no Means have and enjoy the Franchises, Liberties, Immunities and Privileges aforesaid in these Presents contained.

And

**And whereas** it is very plain and manifest that so arduous a Work cannot be performed without much Labour and Pains, and that it will be but of little avail unless it be preserved by constant Attention, Labour, Expence and good Council, that therefore the Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Society aforesaid, and all the Occupiers aforesaid, may be more attentive thereto and assisting therein, and may remain and continue happily and peaceably in their own Houses, Places and Possessions when they retire thither after such great Charge and Labour for Refreshment and Comfort, without any Fear of Disquiet, Trouble or Grievance; of our more abundant special Grace we have granted for ourselves, our Heirs and Successors, to the Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Society aforesaid and every of them and their Successors, and we will that none of them be put without the Liberties of the Precincts of the Fens aforesaid on Assizes, Juries, Attaints, Recognizances or any Inquisitions, although they affect us, our Heirs or Successors or any others, and that none of them be without the Fens aforesaid Collectors of Tenths, Fifteenths, Taxes, Tallages, or any other Charges, Quotas or Impositions of any Kind, by any Means hereafter to be granted and given to us, our Heirs or Successors, and that none of them be or is Constable, Receiver, Bailiff, or other Officer of us, our Heirs or Successors, without the aforesaid Liberties against their Wills.

**Our Will** moreover is, and by these Presents we grant to the aforesaid Governor, Bailiffs

No Owners of Fen Lands to be put on Civil Offices out of the Precincts of the Fens.

These Letters Patents to pass without any Fee to be paid.

liffs and Commonalty of the Society aforesaid; that they may have and shall have these our Letters Patents under our Great Seal of *England* duly made and sealed, without Fine or Fee great or small to us in our Hanaper, or elsewhere, to our Use in any Manner to be returned, paid or made.

Because the Certainty of the Premises granted doth not appear.

**Because** there is not in these Presents any Express mention made of the true yearly Value, or of the Certainty of the Premises of any of them, or of any other Gifts or Grants from us or from any of our Progenitors or Predecessors to the aforesaid Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Society aforesaid, any Statute, Act, Ordinance, Provision or Proclamation to the contrary heretofore had, made, published, ordained or provided, or any other Thing, Cause or Matter whatsoever in any wise notwithstanding. In witness whereof we have caused these our Letters to be made patent. Witness ourselves at *Westminster* the thirteenth Day of *March* in the tenth Year of our Reign.

By Writ of Privy Seal,

WOLSELEY.

A N

# EXEMPLIFICATION

OF THE

## St. *Ives* LAW of SEWERS,

Under the Great Seal of the Commonwealth of  
*England*, bearing Date at *Westminster* the 18th  
of *March* 1658: Which said Law of Sewers  
was made at St. *Ives* in the County of *Hun-*  
*tingdon*, the 12th of *October* in the 13th of  
*Charles* the First, and in the Year of our  
Lord 1638.





**RICHARD**, *Lord Protector* of the Commonwealth of *England, Scotland and Ireland*, and the Dominions and Territories thereunto belonging: *To all* to whom these Presents shall come greeting. *We have viewed* certain Laws, Ordinances and Decrees of Sewers made and established at *St. Ives* in the County of *Huntingdon*, the twelfth Day of *October* in the thirteenth Year of the Reign of *Charles* late King of *England*, remaining of Record in the Files of our Chancery in these Words.

**At a Session** of Sewers at *St. Ives* in the County of *Huntingdon*, the twelfth Day of *October* in the thirteenth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord *Charles*, by the Grace of God, of *England, Scotland, France and Ireland* King, Defender of the Faith,

*Faith, &c. and from thence adjourned to Huntingdon in the County aforesaid, and there continued until the seven and twentieth Day of October next following touching the Fens, low and late surrounding Grounds of the great Level in the Counties of Northampton, Lincoln, Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridge, Huntingdon and the Isle of Ely within the Limits of this Commission, holden before Sir Rowland Saint John, Knight of the Honourable Order of the Bath, Sir Beauchamp Saint John, Sir Robert Bell, Sir Miles Sandys junior Knights, Thomas Dereham, George Glapthorn, Everard Buckworth, Humbert stone March, William Fisher, Esquires and William Hayward, Gentleman, Commissioners of Sewers, then and there assembled by Authority of his Highness's Commission of Sewers to them and others directed, it is ordered, enacted, adjudged and decreed as followeth.*

Recital of  
Lynn Law.

**W**HEREAS at a General Session of Sewers at King's Lynn in the County of Norfolk, holden the thirteenth Day of January in the sixth Year of his Majesty's Reign that now is, in the Presence of the Right Honorable Francis Earl of Bedford, and before Sir Robert Heath, Knight, then his Majesty's Attorney General, Sir Miles Sandys, Knight and Baronet, Sir John Carleton, Baronet, Sir Robert Beville, Knight of the Honourable Order of the Bath, Sir John Peyton, Sir John

Cutlis,

*Cutts*, Sir *John Hare*, Sir *John Poley*, Sir *Robert Bell*, and Sir *Thomas Dereham*, Knights, and others to the Number of forty and one Commissioners of Sewers then and there assembled for and concerning the Work of draining the great Level of the Fens, low and then surrounded Grounds in the Counties of *Northampton*, *Lincoln*, *Norfolk*, *Suffolk*, *Cambridge*, *Huntingdon* and the Isle of *Ely*, they, the said Commissioners and the Country became humble Suitors to the said Earl of *Bedford* that his Lordship would be the Undertaker thereof, unto which Motion his Lordship yielded, and did agree to undertake the said Work; whereupon by a Law of Sewers made at the said Sessions, it was (amongst other things) then ordered and decreed that the said Earl should have ninety-five thousand Acres of the said Grounds, to be indifferently assigned and set out unto him the said Earl, his Heirs and Assigns, of the several Sorts and Qualities of the said Grounds, according to their several Natures and Goodness, by six Commissioners, whereof three to be of the *Quorum*, for his Lordship's Recompence in performing the said Work, and forty thousand Acres, Parcel of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, to be by the said Commissioners assigned and set out to be liable to the Maintenance and Continuance of the said Work of Draining for ever.

And it was then and there further ordered, enacted, adjudged and decreed, that the new Rivers, Cuts and Drains to be made by the said Earl and his Assigns, and the Banks there-  
of



of and the Forelands on the inside of the Banks, not exceeding fifty or three score Foot at the most in Breadth, should belong and be unto the said Earl, his Heirs and Assigns, in respect he and they are to maintain the same as by the said Law or Act of Sewers more at large appeareth, unto the which Law or Act of Sewers his Majesty hath been graciously pleased to give his Royal Assent.

13 June 12  
Car. 1. at a  
Session of Sew-  
ers held at Pe-  
terborough,  
from thence  
adjourned to  
St. Ives, from  
thence to Wis-  
bich.

And whereas after the said Work of Drain-  
ing at and by the great Cost, Charges and Ex-  
pences of the said Earl well and sufficiently  
performed, according to the true Intent of  
the said Law or Act of Sewers made at  
King's Lynn aforesaid, another general Session  
of Sewers was holden at *Peterborough* in the  
said County of *Northampton* the thirteenth  
Day of *June* in the twelfth Year of his said  
Majesty's Reign, and from thence adjourned  
to *St. Ives* in the said County of *Huntingham*  
the seven and twentieth Day of the said Month  
of *June*, and from thence likewise adjourned  
to and continued at *Wisbich* in the Isle of *Ely*  
and County of *Cambridge* aforesaid until the  
eleventh Day of *August* then next ensuing  
at which Session at *Peterborough*, holden be-  
fore the Right Honourable *Henry* Earl of  
*Holland*, one of his said Majesty's most Hon-  
ourable Privy Council, *Oliver* Lord *Saint*  
*John*, Sir *Rowland Saint John*, Knight of the  
Honourable Order of the *Bath*, Sir *Beauchamp*  
*Saint John*, Sir *Hamond Le Strange*, Sir *Robert*  
*Bell*, Sir *Thomas Dereham*, Sir *John Har-*  
*Sir Miles Sandys* junior, and others to the  
Number of twenty-three Commissioners of

Sewers

Sewers, they the said Commissioners did or-  
 der, decree and adjudge the great Level of  
 the said Fens, low and late surrounded Grounds  
 within the said Counties of *Northampton, Lin-*  
*coln, Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridge, Huntingdon*  
 and the Isle of *Ely*, drained according to the  
 Purport and Intent of the said Act and Law  
 of Sewers made at King's *Lynn* aforesaid, and  
 therefore it was thought fit and so ordained  
 and enacted at the Session holden at *Peterbo-*  
*rough* aforesaid, that divers of the Commis-  
 sioners then nominated by the Court, and such  
 other of the Commissioners as should think fit  
 to be present, or any six or more of them,  
 should, with all convenient Speed, view the  
 Fens and late surrounded Grounds within the  
 said Level, and set out, to the said Earl of  
*Bedford* and his Heirs, the Quantity of ninety-  
 five thousand Acres of the same, in Recom-  
 pence of and for the Draining thereof, with  
 indifference, according to their Judgments  
 and Discretions, in such wise as by the said  
 Law of Sewers, made at King's *Lynn* aforesaid,  
 is enacted and decreed.

Commissioners  
 decree the  
 Great Level  
 drained ac-  
 cording to the  
 Intent of *Lynn*  
 Law.

And the  
 95000 Acres  
 to be set out in  
 Recompence  
 to the Earl of  
*Bedford*.

And accordingly at the said Sessions of  
 Sewers, so by Adjournment from *Peterborough*  
 to *St. Ives*, and from *St. Ives* to *Wisbich*,  
 holden and continued at *Wisbich* aforesaid,  
 before a competent Number of the said Com-  
 missioners, namely, the said Sir *Rowland Saint*  
*John*, Sir *Beauchamp Saint John*, Sir *Hamand*  
*de Strange*, Sir *Robert Bell*, Sir *Miles Sandys*  
 senior, and others to the Number of twelve  
 of the said Commissioners, having, during the  
 Time of that Session, personally perambu-  
 lated

And they are,  
 by the said  
 Commissioners  
 on View, set  
 out and as-  
 signed to the  
 said Earl, pur-  
 suant to the  
 Intent of *Lynn*  
 Law, with the  
 Assistance of  
 Sir *Charles*  
*Harbord*, Sur-  
 veyor Gene-  
 ral to his Ma-  
 jeity.

lated and viewed the said fenny, low and late surrounded Grounds, and thereby informed themselves of the several Sorts and Qualities of the said Grounds and of their several Natures and Goodness, and of the Benefits redounding to the several Landowners by Means of the Works of Draining done by the said Earl of *Bedford*, since the Time of his Undertaking to drain the said fenny and low Grounds; in which their Perambulation and View as aforesaid they, the said Commissioners, were assisted by Sir *Charles Harbord* Knight, his Majesty's Surveyor General, who by his Majesty's Letters under his Royal Hand and Signet was especially recommended to that Service, they the said Commissioners, in Pursuance and Confirmation of the said Decree and Judgment made and given at the said Session of Sewers holden at *Peterborough* as aforesaid, did, at the said Session holden by Adjournment at *Wisbich*, as aforesaid, decree, enact, adjudge and declare, that the said Earl of *Bedford* had, at his Cost and Charges and with the Expence of great Sums of Money, drained the said fenny and low Grounds according to the true Intent of the Law of Sewers made at King's *Lynn* aforesaid, and with Advice of the said Sir *Charles Harbord* did allot and set out to the said Earl ninety-five thousand Acres of the said fenny, low and late surrounded Grounds lying and being in the said several Counties of *Northampton*, *Norfolk*, *Suffolk*, *Lincoln*, *Cambridge*, *Huntingdon*, and the Isle of *Ely*, within the Limits of the said several Commissions of Sewers, out of the several

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several and respective Lordships, Manors, Towns, Parishes, Precincts, Fens, and Places of the said great Level, in such sort and manner as in and by a Law, Act and Decree of Sewers made at the said Session of Sewers held by Adjournment at *Wisbich* aforesaid doth more at large appear. And it was further, at the said Session holden by Adjournment at *Wisbich* aforesaid, ordered, enacted, adjudged and decreed, that the said Earl of *Bedford* should have, hold and enjoy the said ninety-five thousand Acres of the said fenny and low Grounds to him the said Earl, his Heirs and Assigns for ever, freed and discharged of and from all Rights and Title of Common, Charges, Demands, and Incumbrances whatsoever.

And it was then and there by the said Commissioners further ordered, enacted, adjudged and decreed, that the said Sir *Charles Harbord*, or such other Person or Persons as the said Sir *Charles Harbord* should thereunto appoint, should survey and measure out the said ninety-five thousand Acres so decreed unto the said Earl of *Bedford*, and should by back-spitting, making of small Trenches or cuts or otherwise, sever or set out the said ninety-five thousand Acres from the several and respective Lands and Commons, whereby the same might be fully known and distinguished, and whereby the said Earl and his Assigns might be enabled by partition Dikes to sever and divide the several Pieces and Proportions of Grounds so to be set out from the said Lands and Commons, and to hold

Same to be measured under the Direction of Sir *Charles Harbord*.



and enjoy the same according to the true Meaning of the said Act made at *Wisbich* aforesaid.

Where measured, Schedules to be made thereof.

**And** it was lastly by the said Commissioners agreed and declared, that so soon as the several Proportions and Parcels of Ground before in the said Act mentioned should be fully measured and distinguished from the rest of the Commons and Severals, by the said Sir *Charles Harbord* or such Persons as he should nominate, that then perfect Schedules should be thereof made by him or them accordingly. And that thereupon the said Commissioners would make such further Act or Acts as should be meet for the further assuring and settling thereof, and every Part and Parcel thereof, to and upon the said Earl, his Heirs and Assigns, and for the local Assignment and Settling of forty thousand Acres thereof, to be set out by the said Commissioners for the perpetual Maintainance of the said Works of Draining in such wise as by the said Act of Sewers made at King's *Lynn* aforesaid is provided, ordered and agreed, as by the said Act and Law of Sewers made at the said Session of Sewers holden by Adjournment at *Wisbich* as aforesaid more at large appeareth.

Since said Sessions of Sewers Complaints by Petition were made to his Majesty against Decrees as to the draining and Allotments.

**And** whereas sithence the said Sessions of Sewers holden at *Wisbich* aforesaid several Petitions of Complaints were presented to his Majesty, thereby pretending that the said great Level of the said Fens, low and late surrounded Grounds, was not drained according to the true Intent of the said Law made at

King's

King's *Lynn* aforesaid, and that the Petitioners received much Prejudice by the Inequality of Allotments contained in the said Law and Decree made at *Wisbich* as aforesaid, the which Complaints his Majesty was graciously pleased to refer to the Consideration of his Highness's most Honourable Privy Council to be heard and determined according to Justice, and thereupon at his Majesty's Court at *Greenwich* the ninth Day of *July* last past the said several Petitions of Complaints being read at the Council Table (his Majesty then present) and considered of and debated in the Presence of many of the Parties and of the said Sir *Charles Harbord*, his Majesty did declare his Royal Pleasure to be, that the said Decrees whereby the said Fens are adjudged drained should by no Ways be impeached as to the Judgment of Draining, but that the Petitions and Complaints concerning the Inequality of Allotments by the Decree of *Wisbich*, especially of the Church of *Ely* and the Land of the Colleges in *Cambridge*, should be referred to the Commissioners who made that Decree and to his Majesty's said Surveyor General, to be ordered and established by them or such of them as should be present at the then next Meeting, as they should think reasonable. And that the Setting-out and Allotment of the Drainers Parts should proceed speedily and effectually without Interruption by the said Complainants or any other, as by an Act of State bearing Date the said ninth Day of *July* appeareth.

Petitions  
heard by Pri-  
vy Council.

The Decree  
confirmed as  
to Draining.

As to Allot-  
ment referred  
to Commissio-  
ners who  
made that De-  
cree.

The said Commissioners assisted by Sir *Charles Harbord* taking Petitions of Complaint into Consideration, find Errors in the Allotments which they rectify, and decree equal Allotment as in Schedules annexed.

**And whereas** the Commissioners abovenamed now assembled at this present Sessions of Sewers, having been therein assisted by the said Sir *Charles Harbord* his Majesty's said Surveyor General, have, according to his Majesty's gracious Direction in the said Act of State mentioned, taken into their serious Considerations as well the said Petitions of Complaint presented to his Majesty, and by the said Act of State referred unto them as aforesaid, as also divers other Petitions of the like Nature exhibited unto them, the said Commissioners upon full and mature Hearing, Examination and Debate of all and singular the Matters complained of in and by the said Petitioners, they the said Commissioners have discovered sundry Errors and Inequalities in the said Allotment or setting forth of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, contained in the said Act and Decree made by Adjournment at *Wisbich* as aforesaid, by Reason of some Mistakes in a Survey before that Time made of the said great Level. And therefore they the said Commissioners, by the special Advice and Assistance of the said Sir *Charles Harbord* have to the utmost of their Judgment and Discretions according to Equity and Justice altered, rectified and reformed the said Allotment or Setting forth of the said ninety-five thousand Acres contained in the said Law or Decree made at *Wisbich* as aforesaid, and all and every such Errors and Inequalities as by any Way or Means they could find out or discover to be in the same; and they the said Commissioners, with the Advice and Assistance

ance aforesaid, have made and perfected and do hereby decree and ordain a just and equal Allotment of ninety-five thousand Acres of fenny, low and late surrounded Grounds, Parcel of the said great Level, to be hereby assured and decreed to the said Earl of *Bedford*, his Heirs and Assigns for ever, according to the Tenor and true Intent of the said Law or Act of Sewers made at King's *Lynn* aforesaid, the which said Allotment or setting forth of the said ninety-five thousand Acres is particularly declared and contained in twenty-six Schedules hereunto annexed.

**Now** the said Commissioners, having an special Regard and Consideration of and to the said Earl of *Bedford* to have drained the Fens according to the Intent of the *Lynn* Law. do hereby adjudge, decree and declare, that the Earl of *Bedford* at his own great Cost and Expence hath well and sufficiently drained all the said fenny, low and late surrounded Grounds of the said great Level lying in the said several Counties of *Northampton, Lincoln, Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridge, Huntingdon* and the Isle of *Ely*, according to the true Tenor and true Intent of the said Act or Law of Sewers made at King's *Lynn* aforesaid.

**And** the said Commissioners do hereby further enact, ordain, adjudge and decree unto the said *Francis* Earl of *Bedford*, his Heirs and Assigns for ever, all and singular the Lands and Grounds, and all and every the Parts and Parcels and Proportions of Lands, Fens and Grounds of what Nature soever they or any of them be, with their and every of their Appurtenances set forth, declared and contained

Decree to Earl  
of *Bedford*  
95000 Acres  
as in the Schedules annexed,



with Water-  
courses, Ri-  
vers, Banks,  
Forelands,  
&c.

Also with  
convenient  
Ways, Drifts  
and Passages.

in the said twenty-six Schedules hereunto annexed, amounting in the whole to the said full Proportion and Quantity of ninety-five thousand Acres of the said fenny, low and late surrounded Grounds of the said great Level. And all and every the Water-courses, Rivers, Drains, Wear-dikes, Forelands not exceeding sixty Foot in Breadth, Banks, Sluices and Works of Draining within, or upon, the said great Level, or any Part thereof, by the said Earl or his Assigns made and erected. And all and singular the Fishings in the said Water-courses, Rivers, Drains, Wear-dikes and every of them, and the Soil, Ground and Inheritance of all and every the said Water-courses, Rivers, Drains, Wear-dikes, Forelands not exceeding sixty Foot in Breadth, Banks, Sluices and Works of Draining and every of them. Together with convenient Ways, Drifts and Passages made and set out, and from Time to Time to be made, appointed and set out, to, and for the said Earl of Bedford, his Heirs and Assigns, for his and their more free, easy and commodious passing to and from the said ninety-five thousand Acres of low and fenny Ground, hereby adjudged and decreed unto the said Earl, his Heirs and Assigns, and to and from every Part and Parcel thereof, and also to and for the more free, easy and commodious Passage of all other Land-Owners, Tenants and Commoners, to any, from any of their several Lands or Commons adjoining unto the said Ways; and all and singular other Easements, Profits and Commodities to all and singular

the Lands and Grounds, and all and every  
the Parts, Parcels and Proportions of Lands,  
Fens and Grounds declared and contained in  
the said twenty-six Schedules hereunto annex-  
ed, amounting in the whole to ninety-five  
thousand Acres as aforesaid, and to all and  
singular the other forementioned Premises be-  
longing or appertaining, according to the Te-  
nor and true Intent of the said Law or Act  
of Sewers made at King's *Lynn* aforesaid;  
To have and to hold all and singular the  
said Lands and Grounds, Parts, Parcels and  
Proportions of Grounds, Lands and Fens, set  
forth, declared and mentioned in the said twenty-  
six Schedules hereunto annexed, amounting in  
the whole to ninety-five thousand Acres as  
aforesaid, and every Part and Parcel of the  
same, and all and every the forementioned  
Water-courses, Rivers, Drains, Wear-dikes, <sup>Wear-dikes,</sup>  
Fishings, Forelands, Banks, Sluices and Works <sup>Fishings,</sup>  
of Draining, and the Soil and Inheritance of <sup>to the Earl,</sup>  
them and every of them, Ways and Premises <sup>his Heirs and</sup>  
whatsoever, with their and every of their Ap- <sup>Assigns for</sup>  
purtenances, unto the said *Francis* Earl of <sup>ever, free</sup>  
*Bedford*, his Heirs and Assigns for ever, freed <sup>from all In-</sup>  
and discharged from all former Right, Ti- <sup>cumbrances.</sup>  
tles, Interests, Conditions, Commons, Rents,  
Services, Charges, Troubles, Incumbrances,  
Duties and Demands whatsoever. Except one <sup>Save a Fee-</sup>  
Fee-farm Rent of Ten Pounds, which is here- <sup>farm Rent of</sup>  
by reserved and decreed to be yearly paid un- <sup>10 l. a Year</sup>  
to our Sovereign Lord the King, his Heirs and <sup>to the Crown.</sup>  
Successors for ever, at the two Feasts of the  
Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin, and St.  
*Michael* the Archangel, by even Portions,  
and

and to be issuing out of all and singular the Lands and Grounds hereby decreed and assured unto the said Earl, his Heirs and Assigns, as aforesaid.

The Highways particularly named and set out.

And for the better Habitation, Improvement, Use and Benefit of the said whole great Level, it is further enacted, ordained and decreed by the said Commissioners, in further Pursuance of the said Act or Law of Sewers, made at King's *Lynn* aforesaid, that convenient summer Ways and Passages shall be made in, upon, and throughout the said great Level in Manner and Form following, that is to say, one Way from *Bedford River* near *Welney* to *Westmore* Causeway, near *Littleport*; one other Way leading from *Upwood* Hards, called *Bottom Hill*, unto *Whittlesey*; and one other Way leading from *Peake Kirke* Meadow unto *Guy Hurn*; and one other Way leading from the Hard Lands of *Chateresse*, called *Wenny Hill*, to the Way in *Sutton* Grounds, leading to *Sutton Galt*, every of the said Ways to contain threescore Foot in Breadth between their several Drains or Wear-dikes; and in Respect the said Ways are to be made and erected at the sole Cost of him the said Earl, or his Assigns, it is therefore enacted, ordained and declared, that all and singular the aforesaid Ways, together with their Wear-dikes and Drains, be the Soil and Inheritance of him the said *Francis Earl of Bedford*, his Heirs and Assigns for ever.

The Bridges particularly named and described.

And it is hereby further enacted, ordained and decreed, that convenient Bridges shall be made in Places meet and necessary, as well for the

the Travelling and Passage in, upon and throughout the said Ways hereby enacted and decreed to be made as aforesaid, as also for the Passing to and from any of the Lands of the said great Level near adjoining unto the said Bridges, that is to say, one Bridge over the new River, called *Bedford River*, at *Sutton Gault*; one other Bridge over the said new River, at *Mephal Town*; one other Bridge over the said new River, near *Oxwillow Lode*; and one other Bridge over the said new River, at *Wellney Town*; and that the said Bridges shall be the Inheritance of him the said Earl, his Heirs and Assigns for ever.

And it is hereby further enacted, ordained A Particular  
and decreed by the said Commissioners, that of the 40000  
the several Lands and Proportions of Ground Acres allotted  
hereafter particularly mentioned, amounting for the Main-  
to forty thousand Acres, Parcel of the said Works.  
ninety-five thousand Acres of fenny and late  
surrounded Grounds, declared and contained  
in the said twenty-six Schedules hereunto an-  
nexed, and hereby decreed and assured to  
the said Earl, his Heirs and Assigns, as afore-  
said, shall for ever hereafter stand, be and con-  
tinue liable and charged to and with the  
Maintenance and Preservation of all and sin-  
gular the aforementioned Ways and Bridges,  
hereby declared to be made as aforesaid, and  
of all and singular other Works erected and  
made, or by the said Commissioners appointed  
to be erected and made by the said Earl of  
*Bedford*, or his Assigns, for draining and im-  
proving of the said great Level according to the  
true Intent and Meaning of the said Act or  
Law



Law of Sewers, made at King's Lynn afore-  
said. That is to say, the Part decreed unto  
the said Earl out of *Reed's Fen*, in *Helgay*,  
three hundred and sixty Acres; in *Sir Henry*  
*Southbery* 76 A. *Willowbie's* several Fen in *Southbery*, on the west  
Side of the River *Ouze*, seventy-six Acres;  
the Proportions decreed out of the common  
Fens of *Weerham*, *Wretton* and *Stoke*, five  
hundred and thirty-six Acres; and out the  
common Fens of *Norwold* four hundred and  
twenty-nine Acres; the Proportion decreed  
out of the several Fens in *Methwold* three  
hundred fifty and seven Acres; and out of  
the several Fens of *Feltwell* seven hundred fifty  
and one Acres; out of the several in *Hock-*  
*wold*, called *Pooling's*, one hundred Acres;  
the Proportion decreed out of the common  
Fen of *Upwell*, called *Shevins*, two hundred  
Acres; and out of *Hale Fen*, and the Com-  
mon Piece in *Upwell* five hundred and ninety  
Acres; and out of the Fen Grounds, called  
*Londoners Fens*, eight hundred Acres; all  
the which forementioned Parcels of Ground  
are within the County of *Norfolk*. The  
Proportion of Ground decreed in the several  
Fens of *Well* and *Welney*, lying in the said  
County of *Norfolk* and the Isle of *Ely*, eight  
hundred and forty Acres; a Parcel of the Pro-  
portion decreed out of the intercommon Fens  
of *Swafham Prior*, *Swafham Bulbecke*, *Boisbam*  
and *Reach*, in the County of *Cambridge*, con-  
taining six hundred Acres, viz. the whole  
Proportions decreed in *White Fen*, being four  
hundred and eleven Acres, and in great *Sedge Fen*,  
being one hundred and eighty Acres; and five  
Acres in *High Fen*, adjoining unto great *Sedge*  
Fen,

Fen, a  
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Fen, and four Acres in the Croyle, adjoining also upon great Sedge Fen. The whole Proportion decreed out of the intercommon Fens of *Bot-* *Bottingham;*  
*sham, Horningsey, Qui and Ditton,* being four *Horningsey,*  
hundred Acres in the said County of *Cam-* *Qui, Ditton,*  
*bridge;* the whole Proportion decreed out of *400 A.*  
the Common and several Fen Grounds of *Downham* in the said Isle of *Ely,* three hun- *Downham*  
dred and ninety Acres; the whole Proportion *390 A.*  
decreed out of *Ashwell Moor,* near *Coveney,* *Ashwell*  
in the said Isle of *Ely,* four hundred twenty- *Moor 423 A.*  
three Acres; the whole Proportion decreed  
out of the common Dammes and several Fen  
Grounds of *Maney;* in the said Isle of *Ely,* *Maney 250 A.*  
two hundred and fifty Acres; the whole Pro-  
portion decreed out of the common Fen,  
called *Pyemoor,* near *Witchford,* in the said *Pyemoor 152*  
Isle of *Ely,* one hundred fifty-two Acres; the *A.*  
the whole Proportion decreed out of *Grunt* *Grunt Fen*  
Fen, in the said Isle, four hundred twenty- *426 A.*  
six Acres; the whole Proportion decreed out  
of the common Fen Grounds of *Chartresse,* in *Chartresse*  
the said Isle of *Ely,* three thousand eight hun- *3826 A.*  
dred twenty-six Acres; the whole Proportion  
decreed out of the several and common Fen  
Grounds of *Doddington, March, Wimbling-* *Doddington,*  
*ton and Benwick,* twelve thousand seven hun- *March, Wim-*  
dred and forty-nine Acres; the whole Pro- *blington, Ben-*  
portion decreed out of the common and se- *wick, 12749*  
veral Fen Grounds of *Elme,* in the said Isle *A.*  
of *Ely,* two hundred and fifty Acres; the *Elme 250 A.*  
whole Proportion decreed out of the com- *Eufymore*  
mon Fen Grounds, called *Eufymore,* in the *2000 A.*  
said Isle of *Ely,* two thousand Acres; a Par-  
cel of the Proportion decreed out of the se-  
veral

- Tyrl's Ground* 24 A. veral Fen Grounds of *Thomas Tyrl*, Gentleman, lying near Priests Houses, in the said Isle of *Ely*, twenty-four Acres, at the west End of the same Ground; the whole Proportion decreed out of the High Fen and North Fen in *Somersham*, in the County of *Huntingdon*, one thousand five hundred and thirty-three Acres; the whole Proportion decreed out of the common Fen Grounds of *Warboys*, in the said County of *Huntingdon*, one thousand eight hundred sixty-eight Acres; the whole Proportion decreed out of the common Fen Grounds, called *Wistow Fen*, three hundred eighty-six Acres; the whole Proportion decreed out of the common Fen Grounds of *Ramsay*, in the said County of *Huntingdon*, four thousand five hundred sixty-four Acres; the whole Proportion decreed out of the several Fen Grounds of Sir *Oliver Cromwell*, Knight, in the Grounds called *Ashbeck*, *Abbotts*, *Pingle*, and *Wiggin Moor*, in *Ramsay* aforesaid, one hundred seventy-seven Acres; the whole Proportion decreed out of the several Fen Grounds of *Cunington*, in the said County of *Huntingdon*, two hundred eighty-one Acres; the whole Proportion decreed out of the common Fens of *Denton*, in the said County of *Huntingdon*, one hundred fifty and six Acres; the whole Proportion decreed out of the Fen Grounds of *Caldecote*, in the said County of *Huntingdon*, fifty-six Acres; the whole Proportion decreed out of the common Fen Grounds of *Stilton*, in the said County of *Huntingdon*, one Hundred and sixty Acres; the

the whole Proportion decreed out of common Fen Ground of *Woodwalton*, in the said *Woodwalton* County of *Huntingdon*, nine hundred thirty-937 A. seven Acres; a Parcel of the Proportion decreed out of the common Fen Grounds of *Holme*, in the said County of *Huntingdon*, *Holme* 27 A. twenty-seven Acres, adjoining upon the said Fen Grounds of *Walton*; a Parcel of the Proportion decreed out of the several Fen Grounds of *Thorney*, in the said Isle of *Ely*, one *Thorney* 1880 A. thousand eight hundred and eighty Acres, lying on the East Part of *Knar* Fen adjoining to the *Wride*; a Parcel of the Proportion decreed out of the common Fen on the South Side of *Bedford* River, called *Westmoor*, in *Westmoor* the said Isle of *Ely*, the said Parcel containing four hundred eighty-two Acres, and lying Fen, on South of *Bedford* River, 482 A. on the South-east Side of one thousand Acres, Part of the said Proportion, adjoining to *Oxwillow* Load; a Parcel of the said Proportion decreed out of the said common Fen, called *Westmoor*, on the North Side of the said *Bedford* *Westmoor*, on North Side of *Bedford* River, the said Parcel containing four hundred eighty-two Acres, and lying on the North-*Bedford* River, 482. west Side of one thousand Acres, Part of the said Proportion, lying next unto *Welney*; and a Parcel of the Proportion decreed out of the common Fen, called *Byall* Fen, on the North *Byall* Fen 482 A. Side of the said *Bedford* River, the said Parcel containing four hundred and eighty-two Acres, and lying on the North-west Side of one thousand Acres, Part of the said Proportion, next towards *Maney*.

And



Partition  
Dikes to be  
made accord-  
ing to the In-  
tent of the  
*Lynn Law.*

**And** it is further enacted, ordained and decreed, that all Partition Dikes and Fences, which shall be thought necessary to be made to carry away the Rain Water towards the main Drains, shall be made according to the Purport, true Intent and Meaning of the said Act or Law of Sewers made at King's *Lynn* aforesaid.

Earl of *Bed-*  
*ford* to have  
Power to  
make new  
Works, &c.  
according to  
*Lynn Law*,  
under the  
Comptrol of  
six or more of  
the Commis-  
sioners, three  
to be of the  
*Quorum.*

**And** it is hereby further enacted, or-  
dained, decreed and declared, that the said  
Earl of *Bedford*, or his Assigns, shall, from  
Time to Time and at all Times hereafter,  
have free Liberty and Authority, according  
to the Power formerly given unto him by the  
said Law made at King's *Lynn* aforesaid, to  
make any such new Works, and to cut Ground  
and cast up Earth for making such new Banks,  
and Drains, as by six or more of the said Com-  
missioners of Sewers, whereof three to be of  
the *Quorum*, shall be adjudged and decreed as  
fit and necessary to be made and erected  
for the further Advancement of this great  
Work of Draining.

Waters, Pits,  
Holes and  
Mear grounds  
not drainable,  
vested in the  
Earl of *Bed-*  
*ford*, though  
no Part of the  
95000 Acres.

**And** it is further hereby enacted, ordered, or-  
dained, decreed and declared, that the said Earl  
of *Bedford* shall have, hold and enjoy to him,  
his Heirs and Assigns for ever, all and every  
the Waters, Sumps, Dikes, Pits, Holes and  
Mear-grounds, and the Fishings in the same,  
and the Soil, Ground and Inheritance of them,  
and every of them, lying and being within the  
said ninty-five thousand Acres, contained and  
declared in the said Schedules hereunto an-  
nexed, the same being not drained or draina-  
ble,

ble, according to Act, and the true Intent and Meaning of the said Act or Law made at King's *Lynn* aforesaid, although the same be no Parcel of the said Quantity of ninety-five Thousand Acres, hereby decreed and assured to the said Earl, his Heirs and Assigns, as aforesaid.

**Provided** always, and it is hereby adjudged, enacted and declared, that the antient Rivers and Drains shall be and remain to the right Owners thereof, as formerly they did or hereafter should of Right belong, according to the Tenor and true Meaning of the said Act or Law, made at King's *Lynn* aforesaid; any Thing in this present Act or Law of Sewers to the contrary notwithstanding.

**And** it is lastly hereby concluded and fully agreed by the said Commissioners, that they, together with the said Earl of *Bedford*, shall become humble Suitors to the King's most excellent Majesty, that his Majesty will be graciously pleased to confirm, approve and ratify this present Act and Decree, and, by his Royal Hand signing the same, to declare his Royal Approbation thereof and Assent thereunto; and that his Majesty will be further graciously pleased to recommend the same to the Right Honourable the Lord Keeper of the Great Seal, and the Chancellor of his Highness's Dutchy of *Lancaster*, that it may in due Form of Law be confirmed and ratified, both by Decree of the Honourable Court of Chancery and of the Court belonging to the said Dutchy, and that his Majesty will vouchsafe to recommend the same to the

Antient Rivers  
and Drains to  
remain to the  
right Owners.

Commissioners  
with Earl of  
*Bedford* to ap-  
ply to the  
King for a  
Ratification of  
this Decree,

and that he  
would get it  
confirmed by  
the Court of  
Chancery and  
the Dutchy  
Court,

and also ordered,  
ed, as Matter  
of State, by the  
Privy Council;

and for his  
Royal Assent  
thereto when  
it shall, as a  
Law, have  
passed both  
Houses of Par-  
liament.

Right Honourable Lords and others of his Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council, that it may by them be ordered, as Matter of State, not to be altered or impeached, having received the Approbation of that Honourable Board. And that whensoever a Parliament shall be called, and a Bill being then preferred to the two Houses of that High Court of Parliament, and the same be then passed as a Law, that his Majesty would be graciously pleased, for the full and final Confirmation thereof, to give his Royal Assent thereunto.

**In witness** whereof the Commissioners first above-named to two Parts of these Presents indented, the one Part to be presented to his Majesty as aforesaid, and the other Part to remain with the Clerk of the Sewers, according to the Law in that Case provided, have set their Hands and Seals the said twenty-seventh Day of *October*, the Year first above written.

**We** have also viewed certain Schedules or Particulars of Lands to the said Laws, Ordinances and Decrees annexed, under the Seals of certain Commissioners of Sewers, whereby the said Laws, Ordinances and Decrees were made, remaining of Record in the Files of our said Chancery in these Words :

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A SCHEDULE and Particular of such Lands and Proportions of Grounds lying within the Fens, called the great Level of Fens or surrounded Grounds, within the Counties of *Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridge, Huntingdon, Northampton, Lincoln* and the Isle of *Ely*, as by this present Law or Act of Sewers are set out, decreed and assured unto the Right Honourable *Francis* Earl of *Bedford*, his Heirs and Assigns, to be holden and enjoyed by him and them for ever, according to the Tenor of this said Act.

## COM. NORF.

Denver.

OUT of the common Fen  
 Grounds of or belonging  
 ing to *Denver* in the said County  
 of *Norfolk*, lying on the West  
 Side of the River *Ouse*, three  
 I 2 Hundred



Hundred and Fourscoure Acres, (that is to say) one Hundred twenty-four Acres out of that Part of the Fen near *Salters Lode*, abutting Eastward upon the said River, and Northward upon the River called *Bedford River*. And the Residue, being two hundred fifty-six Acres, out of that Part of the Fen that lieth next *Salters Lode* upon the North Side of the said new River, abutting upon the said new River, and Well Creek.

380 0 0

Out of a several Fen Ground in *Denver* aforesaid, abutting Westward upon the Grounds of *Well*, four Acres at the South End thereof next *Denver Fen*.

4 0 0

*Helgay.*

Out of the common Fens of or belonging to *Helgay*, in the said County of *Norfolk*, one thousand three hundred Acres, (that is to say) one intire Fen, lying between *Sir Henry Willoughbie's Drain* and *Southery Common*, containing nine hundred eighty-two Acres, and the Residue, being three hundred and eighteen Acres, out of that Part of the said Fen abutting Northward upon the imbanked Grounds of *Edmund Skipwith Esquire*, and adjoining to the said River *Ouse*.

1300 0 0

Out

**Out of** the several Fen  
Grounds of or belonging to Sir  
*Henry Willoughby*, Knight, called  
*Read's* Fen, three hundred and  
sixty Acres, at the North End of  
the said Grounds, abutting upon  
*Maid Lode*. } 360 0 0

**Out of** the common Fen } **Southery,**  
Grounds of or belonging to  
*Southery*, in the said County of  
*Norfolk*, eight hundred Acres } 800 0 0  
out of the common Fen called  
*Adymore*, abutting upon *Helgay*  
common Fen, and the River *Ouse*.

**Out of** the several Fen  
Grounds in *Southery* aforesaid, of  
or belonging to Sir *Henry Wil-*  
*loughby* aforesaid, lying on the } 76 0 0  
East Side of the River *Ouse*, se-  
venty and six Acres at the South  
End thereof, near to *Modney*  
House.

**Out of** one other several Fen  
Ground in *Southery* aforesaid, of  
or belonging to the said Sir *Henry*  
*Willoughby*, Knight, lying on the } 76 0 0  
West Side of the River *Ouse*, se-  
venty-six Acres at the West End  
of the same Grounds.

**Out of** one other several Fen  
Ground, lying in *Southery* or *Hel-*  
*gay*, or one of them, of or } 20 0 0  
belonging to *Thomas Gibbon*, Esq;  
twenty Acres at the Western End  
thereof, near Priests Houses.

**Roxham.**

**Out of the common Fen** }  
Grounds of or belonging to *Rox-*  
*ham*, in the said County of *Nor-*  
*folk*, ninety-four Acres at the  
South-east Part of the same Fen,  
abutting upon *Dereham Coat Fen*,  
and the River *Wisse*.

94 0 0

**Dereham.**

**Out of the common Fen** }  
Grounds of or belonging to  
*Dereham*, in the said County of  
*Norfolk*, two hundred Acres,  
(that is to say) ninety-five Acres  
out of the Fen called *Dereham*  
*Coat Fen*, abutting upon *Roxham*  
*Fen* and the River *Wisse*, and the  
Residue, being one hundred and  
five Acres, out of the common  
Fen, at the Parts thereof abut-  
ting upon the said River *Wisse*  
and *Wereham*.

200 0 0

**Wereham,  
Wretton,  
and Stoke.**

**Out of the common Fens** }  
of or belonging to *Were-*  
*ham*, *Wretton* and *Stoke*, in the  
said County of *Norfolk*, five  
hundred thirty and six Acres in  
one Piece, next the said River  
*Wisse*, extending along the said  
River, from the North Side of  
*Tokesbill* to *Weredike*.

536 0 0

**Norwold.**

**Out of the common Fen** }  
Grounds of or belonging to *Nor-*  
*wold*, in the said County of *Nor-*  
*folk*, four hundred twenty and  
nine Acres, (that is to say) the  
intire common Fen lying on the  
North

North Side of the River *Wisse*, containing twenty-nine Acres, and the Residue, being four hundred Acres, out of the common Fens lying on the South Side of the said River, abutting upon the said River, and lying between *Howbill* and *Wittington* Causey, and between the said River and the hard Lands of *Norwold*.

429 0 0

Out of the common Fens of or belonging to *Methwold* in the said County of *Norfolk*, one thousand six hundred forty and eight Acres, out of the Fens called *Southmore* and *Twinne Lodes*, abutting North-westward, upon Part of the said Common called *Southmore*, wherein *Southbery* doth intercommon North-eastward upon the several Fen Grounds of Sir *Edmund Munford*, Knight, and Southward upon the common Fen of *Feltwel*, called North Fen.

1648 0 0

*Methwold.*

Out of the several Fen Grounds of *Methwold* aforesaid, three hundred fifty-seven Acres at the West End of two of the said Severals next *Southbery*.

357 0 0

Out of the common Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Feltwel*, in the said County of *Norfolk*, one thousand six hundred ninety-seven Acres, (that is to say)

*Feltwel.*



say) eight hundred and forty Acres out of the Fen called North Fen, at the North-east Part thereof, abutting upon the common Fen of *Metbwold*, called *Southmore*. Out of the Fen called the Mowe Fen, eighty Acres at the West Part of the same Fen next *Brandon* River; and the Residue, being seven hundred seventy and seven Acres, out of the Fen called the South Fen, at the South-west Part thereof abutting upon the said Mowe Fen, and the several Fen Ground belonging to Sir *Thomas Woodhouse*.

1697 0 0

**Out of** the several Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Feltwel* afore said, seven hundred fifty and one Acres, (that is to say) out of the several Fen Ground now or late of Sir *Thomas Woodhouse*, Knight, abutting upon *Feltwel* South Fen, and a Several belonging to Sir *Edmund Mundford*, two hundred and six Acres out of the middle Part of the said several Fen from North to South. Out of the several Fen Ground of Sir *Edmund Mundford* afore said, abutting upon the said Several of Sir *Thomas Woodhouse* afore said, one hundred ninety and seven Acres out of the middle Part of the said Fen  
from

from North to South. Out of  
 the several Fen Ground belong-  
 ing to *Christ's College*, abutting  
 upon the said several Fen Ground  
 of Sir *Edmund Mundford* afore-  
 said, one hundred twenty-six  
 Acres out of the middle Part of  
 the said Ground from North to  
 South. Out of the several Fen  
 Ground late of *Robert Wace*,  
 Gent. abutting upon the said se-  
 veral Ground of *Christ's College*  
 and the River of *Brandon*, one  
 hundred seventy-two Acres out  
 of the Middle of the said Ground  
 from North to South. Out of  
 the several Fen Ground lying be-  
 tween the Fen Grounds of *Christ's*  
*College* afore said and the River  
 of *Brandon*, fourteen Acres abut-  
 ting Northward upon the several  
 Fen Ground of *Thomas Gibbon*,  
 Esq. Out of the several Fen  
 Grounds of or belonging to *Tho-*  
*mas Tyrel*, Gent. lying between  
 the afore said Fen Grounds of Sir  
*Edmund Mundford*, Knight, and  
 the River of *Brandon*, thirteen  
 Acres and twenty Perches at the  
 South-east End of the same  
 Ground. Out of the several Fen  
 Ground lying between the seve-  
 ral Fen of Sir *Thomas Woodhouse*  
 afore said and the River of *Bran-*  
*don*, ten Acres and three Roods  
 at

at the South Part thereof. Out of the several Fen Ground late of *Robert Wace*, Gent. abutting upon the hard Lands of *Feltwel* aforesaid, six Acres and Ten Perches at the North-west end of the same Ground. Out of the several Fen Ground lying between *Feltwel* Mowe Fen and the River of *Brandon*, six Acres and ten Perches at the North-west End thereof.

751 0 0

**Hockwold  
and Wil-  
ton.**

Out of the common Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Hockwold* and *Wilton*, in the said County of *Norfolk*, nine hundred and fifty Acres out of the common Fen adjoining to the common Fens and the hard Lands of *Feltwel*, and abutting upon the said hard Lands of *Feltwel*.

950 0 0

Out of the several Fen Grounds of *William Heveningham*, Esq; two hundred Acres (that is to say) out of the several Ground called *Poolings*, one hundred Acres at the North Side thereof, abutting upon *Feltwel* Mowe Fen and the River of *Brandon*, and out of one other several Ground lying on the South-west Side of the said River of *Brandon*, one hundred Acres abutting upon the Fen called *Redmore* Grounds and the said River of *Brandon*.

200 0 0

Dut

Out of the several Fen  
Ground of *Osbert Pratt*, Gent.  
lying next the Fen called Sea  
Fen, ten Acres at the North  
End of the same Ground. } 10 0 0

C O M. S U F F.

OUT of the common Fen } *Brandon.*  
Grounds of or belonging  
unto *Brandon*, in the County of  
*Suffolk*, three hundred and fifty  
Acres, (that is to say) one intire  
Fen abutting upon the East Part  
of the common Fen of *Lacking-*  
*beath* called *Stallard*, one hundred  
and ninety Acres; and the Resi-  
due, being one hundred and sixty  
Acres, out of a common Fen abutt-  
ing upon the said intire Fen, at  
the West End of the said com-  
mon Fen. } 350 0 0

Out of the common Fen } *Lacking-*  
Grounds of or belonging to *Lack-*  
*ingbeath*, in the said County of  
*Suffolk*, one thousand and eight  
hundred Acres, (that is to say)  
the Moiety or one half of the  
common Fen called *Little-shell*,  
or *East-more*, being ninety-two  
Acres at the Eastern Part there-  
of, next the common Fen called  
*Arch-*



*Archingstal*. The said intire common Fen called *Archingstal* containing one hundred seventy-four Acres. One intire common Fen abutting upon the River of *Brandon*. *Audry Lode*, and the several Fen Ground of *William Heveningham*, Esq; containing forty-seven Acres. One intire common Fen lying on the North Side of *Brandon* River, between the common Fen of *Hockwold* and *Wilton*, called Sea Fen, and the several Fen of *William Heveningham* aforesaid, containing fifty-eight Acres and a Half. The intire common Fen called *Town-more*, containing five hundred seventy-nine Acres; and the Residue, being eight hundred forty-nine Acres and a half, out of the great common Fen abutting upon *Plant Lode* and the said Fen called *Town-more*, at the North-west Part thereof.

1800 00

**Lacking-  
beath  
Severals.**

**Out of** the several Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Lackingbeath* aforesaid, two hundred and fourscore Acres (that is to say) out of the several Fen Grounds of *Unley Farm*, lying between the common Fen Grounds of *Lackingbeath* aforesaid and the Sedge Fens of *Mil-den Hall*, one hundred twenty-three

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three Acres and two Roods at the West End of the same Ground. Out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *William Steward*, Gent. lying at the West End of the common Fen called *Stallard*, three Acres and one Rood at the West End of the same Ground. Out of one other several Fen Ground now or late of the said *William Steward*, lying on the North Side of *Brandon River*, six Acres and one Rood at the North West End of the same Ground. Out of the several Fen Ground abutting upon the said common Fen called *Stallard* and the High Lode, four Acres at the North End of the same Ground. Out of a triangular several Fen Ground, abutting upon the said common Fen called *Stallard* and the High Lode, one Acre three Roods and twenty Perches at the South End of the same Ground. Out of the several Fen Ground lying between Winter Lode and Cross Water, at the Meeting of the same Lodes, one Acre three Roods and twenty Perches at the North-west End thereof. Out of a several Fen Ground lying near Willow Lode, encompassed on all Sides with the common Fen of  
*Lack-*

*Lackingbeath* aforesaid, two Acres at the West Part of the same Ground. Out of the several Fen Ground lying on the East Part of the last mentioned several Ground, four Acres and one Rood at the North-west End thereof. Out of one other several Fen Ground lying on the East Part of the several Ground last mentioned and abutting upon Cross Water, eight Acres at the North-west Side of the same Ground next unto Cross Water aforesaid. Out of the several Fen Ground, lying between the last mentioned several Ground and Willow Lode, two Acres and three Roods at the West End of the same Ground. Out of the several Fen Ground, abutting upon the West Side of Winter Lode and High Lode aforesaid, fifteen Acres and two Roods at the North-west End thereof abutting upon High Lode. Out of the several Fen Ground abutting upon the Common Fen called *East More*, and the several Fen called the *Boats Gangs*, two Acres at the North-west End thereof next to Delf Dike. Out of the several Fen Grounds called the *Boats Gangs*, sixty-seven Acres and a half at the West

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West End hereof, abutting upon Plant Lode and Delf Dike. Out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *John Crane*, abutting upon High Lode, and the several Ground now or late of *William Barne*, Gent. eight Acres and two Roods adjoining upon the said several Ground of *William Barne* and the said High Lode. Out of the said several Fen Ground now or late of *William Barne* afore said, ten Acres adjoining upon the said several Ground of *John Crane*. Out of one other several Fen Ground now or late of the said *John Crane*, lying near the said several Ground of *William Barne* afore said, six Acres and two Roods at the North-west Side of the same Ground, abutting upon High Lode afore said. Out of the greater of the two several Fen Grounds lying between *Delf* Dike and *Brandon* River, eight Acres and two Roods at the North-west Side thereof. And out of the other smaller Several, lying between *Delf* Dike and *Brandon* River, three Acres and three Roods at the North End of the same Ground.

280 0 0

Out



**Milden  
Hall.**

**O**ut of the common Fen Ground of or belonging to *Milden Hall*, in the said County of *Suffolk*, two thousand nine hundred and twenty Acres, (that is to say) one intire Common called *Burnt Fen*, containing one thousand seven hundred and thirty-seven Acres. Two intire Fen Grounds called *Sedge Fens*, lying between *Burnt Fen* and *Town More* in *Lackingbeath* afore said, containing eight hundred and forty Acres. And the Residue, being three hundred forty and three Acres, out of the common Fen lying between the several Fen Grounds of *Unly Farm* and *Baldwin's Lode*, at the West Part of the same Fen.

2920 0 0

## COM. CANTABR.

**Isleham.**

**O**UT of the common Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Isleham*, in the County of *Cambridge*, nine hundred and thirty Acres, (that is to say) one intire common Fen abutting upon the common Fens of *Sobam*, called *Great Metlam* and *Little Metlam*, and the River of *Mil-*  
*den*

den Hall, containing three hundred and eight Acres. Out of the Mow Fen of *Isleham*, abutting upon the fore-mentioned common Fen of *Isleham* and the said River of *Milden Hall*, four hundred thirty-two Acres at the North Part thereof. And out of the common Fen of *Isleham*, called West Fen, abutting upon the common Fens of *Sobam*, called Little *Metlam* and the *Hasse*, one hundred and ninety Acres at the North End of the same Fen.

930 0 0

*Sobam.*

**Out of** the common Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Sobam* and *Barwey*, in the said County of *Cambridge*, one thousand and eight hundred Acres, (that is to say) the intire common Fen abutting upon *Wickin* High Fen, called *Fordey*, containing one hundred fifty-six Acres and a Half. Out of the common Fen called *Barwey* Middle, seventy-four Acres and a half at the North-east Part thereof, abutting upon Sea Lode and the River *Ouse*. The two intire common Fens called Great *Metlam* and Little *Metlam*, containing one thousand two hundred and ten Acres. And out of the common Fen called the *Hasse*,

K three

three hundred fifty-nine Acres at the North Part thereof, abutting upon Little *Metlam* afore-  
said. } 1800 0 0

**Out of** the several Fen Ground in *Sobam* afore-  
said, of or belonging to Sir *Robert Heath*, Knight, four hundred and twenty Acres. Out of the several Fen Ground called Great *Metlam*, abutting upon the Common called Great *Metlam* and the River of *Milden Hall*, at the East Part of the said several Fen. } 420 0 0

**Out of** the several Fen Ground in *Sobam* afore-  
said, lying between the Fens called East Fen and Calf Fen, eight Acres at the East End thereof. } 8 0 0

**Out of** the several Fen Ground in *Sobam*, called *Bugbeach*, one Acre at the West End thereof. } 1 0 0

**Fordham.** **Out of** the common Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Fordham* in the said County of *Cambridge*, lying between the Fen Grounds of *Burwel* and the hard Lands near *Wickin*, twenty-seven Acres at the West End of the same Fen. } 27 0 0

**Wickin.** **Out of** the common Fen Ground of or belonging to *Wickin*, in the said County of *Cambridge*, four hundred and fifty Acres,

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Acres, (that is to say) out of the common Fen, called the Sedge Fen or Broad Meadow, three hundred Acres at the Western End thereof, abutting upon *Reach* Lode, the hard Lands of *Wickin*, and the imbanked several Grounds of *Isaac Barrow*, Esq; and the Residue, being one hundred and fifty Acres, out of the common Fen called High Fen, at the North-east Part thereof adjoining upon the several Ground of *Thetford*, called the *Botts Gangs*, and the River *Grant*.

450 o o

Out of the Fen Grounds of *Wickin* aforesaid, being Mow Fens or *Lamas* Grounds, consisting of the Lots or Doles of divers Persons, one hundred Acres; (that is to say) out of the mowing Ground lying on the West Side of the River *Grant*, fifty-five Acres and three Roods at the West End of the same Lots or Doles, abutting upon the common Fen of *Water-beach*, called *Joyst* Fen; out of the mowing Grounds lying between the hard Lands of *Wickin* aforesaid, the River *Grant*, the several Fen Grounds of *Upmeere* Farm, and the Way leading from the hard Lands of *Wickin* unto *Dimock's*



Coat, twenty-three Acres and one Rood at the middle Part of the said Mow Fen, where the said Doles or Lots do abut one upon another, extending from the said hard Lands of *Wickin* to the said Way leading to *Dimock's* Coat; and out of the mow Fen Ground lying between the said Way leading to *Dimock's* Coat, the River *Grant*, the High Fen of *Wickin* and the hard Lands of *Wickin*, twenty-one Acres at the middle Part of the said Mow Fen, where the said Doles or Lots do abut one upon another, extending from the said Way leading to *Dimock's* Coat unto the Way leading to *Wickin* High Fen aforesaid.

100 0 0

Out of a several Sedge Fen of *Isaac Barrow*, Esq; lying in *Wickin* aforesaid, twenty-one Acres at the North-west Part thereof.

21 0 0

Out of a several Sedge Fen of or belonging to Sir *Edward Peyton*, Knight and Baronet, fourteen Acres at the West End thereof.

14 0 0

Out of other several Fen Grounds lying in *Wickin* aforesaid twenty Acres, (that is to say) out of the imbanked several Fen Ground of *Isaac Barrow* aforesaid

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said seven Acres at the West End thereof, abutting upon the hard Lands of *Wickin* aforesaid; out out the several Fen Grounds belonging to *Upmeer* Farm five Acres at the North-east End of the same Grounds, abutting upon the Mow Fen of *Wickin* and the River *Grant*; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of Sir *Edward Peyton* aforesaid, lying upon the West Side of the River *Grant*, five Acres at the South-west End thereof abutting upon the River *Grant*; and out of the several Fen Ground of — *Dalton*, Gent. adjoining to the said several Fen of Sir *Edward Peyton* and the River *Grant*, three Acres at the South-west Part of the same several Ground.]

20 0 0

Out of the common Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Burwel* and *Reach* in the said County of *Cambridge*, seven hundred Acres at the North-west Part of the same Fens abutting upon *Wickin* Lode and *Reach* Lode.

*Burwel*  
and *Reach*.

700 0 0

Out of the intercommon Fens of or belonging to *Swafham* Prior, *Swafham* Bulbeck, *Botlam* and *Reach*, in the said County of *Cambridge*, or to some or one of them, one thousand four hundred Acres, (that is to say) out of the common Fen,

*Swafham*.

called White Fen, four hundred and eleven Acres abutting upon *Swafham* Lode and White Fen Lake. Out of the common Fen called the *Croyle*, four hundred and four Acres abutting Eastward upon the common Fen called great Sedge Fen, Southward and Westward upon the Residue of the same common Fen called the *Croyle*, and Northward upon the common Fen called the High Fen; out of the said common Fen called the High Fen, four hundred and five Acres at the North-east Part thereof abutting upon *Reach* Lode and the River *Grant*; and out of the common Fen called great Sedge Fen, one hundred and eighty Acres at the North End thereof abutting upon the High Fen and *Reach* Lode.

1400 0 0

**Botfam.**

Out of the common Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Botfam* in the said County of *Cambridge*, lying between White Fen Lake and the River *Grant*, one hundred and forty Acres at the North-east End of the same Fen Ground abutting upon *Swafham* High Fen and the River *Grant*.

140 0 0

**Horningsey, Qui and Ditton.**

Out of the intercommon Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Botfam*, *Horningsey*, *Qui*, and *Ditton*, in

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in the said County of *Cambridge*,  
or to some or one of them, four  
hundred Acres; (that is to say)  
out of the common Fen called  
High Fen, one hundred Acres at  
the Eastern End thereof abutting  
upon the common Fen called  
the Rough; and out of the said  
common Fen called the Rough,  
three hundred Acres at the  
Western Part thereof abutting  
upon the said High Fen.

400 0 0

Out of the common Fen  
Grounds of or belonging to *Wa-  
ter-Beach* in the said County of  
*Cambridge*, seven hundred and  
fifty Acres; (that is to say) out of  
the Fen called the *Joyst* Fen, six  
hundred thirty-eight Acres at the  
North End thereof abutting up-  
on the several Fen Grounds of  
*Strettham* and *Wickin*; and out of  
one other Fen, lying between  
the said Fen called *Joyst* Fen, the  
River *Grant*, and the hard Lands  
of *Water-Beach*, one hundred and  
twelve Acres at the North-east  
End thereof, abutting upon the  
said Fen called *Joyst* Fen and the  
River *Grant*.

*Water-  
beach.*

750 0 0

Out of the common Fen  
Grounds of or belonging to *Cot-  
tenbam* in the said County of  
*Cambridge*, two hundred and  
K 4 forty

*Cotten-  
bam.*



forty Acres at the East End of  
the common Fen, lying between  
the common Fens called *Sech*  
Hill Fens and the Lots.

240 0 0

**Rampton.**

**Out of** the common Fen  
Grounds of or belonging to  
*Rampton* in the said County of  
*Cambridge*, sixteen Acres; (that  
is to say) out of the Mow Fen  
called *Hempfal*, thirteen Acres  
at the North-east End thereof  
abutting upon *Smithy* Fen in  
*Cottenham*; and out of the com-  
mon Fen Ground called *Iram*,  
three Acres at the East Corner  
thereof abutting upon *Hempfal*  
afore said.

16 0 0

**Wiveling-  
ham.**

**Out of** the common Fens of  
or belonging to *Wivelingham* in  
the said County of *Cambridge*,  
one hundred eighty three Acres  
and one Rood; (that is to say)  
out of the common Fen Ground  
called *Hempfal*, fifty three Acres  
at the North Part thereof adjoin-  
ing upon *Smithy* Fen and *Audrey*  
Causey; out of the common Fen  
called Middle-ditch Fen, seventy-  
seven Acres and one Rood at the  
South-east Part thereof abutting  
upon the several Fen Ground  
called *Babies Hurne* and the Ri-  
ver *Ouse*; and out of the com-  
mon Fen called *Clattox* or *Lan-*  
*grige*, fifty-three Acres at the  
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North End thereof abutting upon the several Fen Grounds of *Over* and the several Fen Grounds in *Wivelingham*, called the Meer Grounds.

183 1 0

Out of the several Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Wivelingham* aforesaid, forty Acres and three Roods; (that is to say) out of the several Ground called *Shelfould*, consisting of the Lots or Doles of divers Persons, twelve Acres and three Roods at the South-west End of the said Lots next unto the Fens of *Over*; out of the several Fen called *Babies Hurne* thirteen Acres and three Roods at the North End thereof abutting upon the River *Ouse*; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *James Pascall*, Gent. called Stacks, seven Acres at the North-east End thereof abutting upon *Audrey Causey*; and out of the several Fen of *John Crane*, Esquire, called *Little Shelfould*, seven Acres and one Rood at the North-east Corner thereof near *Erith Sluce*.

40 3 0

Out of the common Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Over* in the said County of *Cambridge*, one hundred Seventy-one Acres; out of the Fen called the *Marish* at

*Dier.*

at the East End thereof, abutting North-westward upon the East End of the Lots or Doles of divers Persons, extending from the Place called the *Haywards* Swath unto the Bank of the River *Ouse* Eastward upon the several or the late inclosed Grounds of *Over* aforesaid called *Blunte Meer*, and Southward upon the Residue of the said Fen called the Marish.

171 0 0

*INSULA ELIEN IN  
COM. CANTABR.*

**Hadden-**  
**ham.**

**O**UT of the common Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Haddenham* in the said Isle of *Ely* and County of *Cambridge*, three hundred seventy-eight Acres; (that is to say) out of the Fen called *Gaul Fen* three hundred and nine Acres at the East Part thereof abutting upon *Berry Fen*; and the Residue, being sixty-nine Acres, out of the common Fen called *Berry Fen* aforesaid, at the West Side thereof, abutting upon *Gaul Fen* aforesaid.

378 0 0

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Out of the several Fen  
 Grounds of or belonging to *Haddenbam* aforesaid, one hundred  
 thirty and eight Acres; (that is  
 to say) out of the several Fen  
 Ground called *Ewell Fen*, thirty-  
 six Acres and two Roods at the  
 West Part thereof abutting upon  
*Gaul Fen* and the Delfs in *Hadden-*  
*bam*; out of the Mow Fen called  
*Lindon Doles*, nine Acres at the  
 South Side thereof abutting upon  
 the River *Ouse*; out of the se-  
 veral Fen called *Priests Croft*,  
 one Acre at the South End  
 thereof next the River *Ouse*;  
 out of the greater Fen Ground  
 called *Hill Doles*, twelve Acres  
 and twenty Perches at the North  
 Side thereof next *Haddenbam*  
 small Fen; out of the lesser Fen  
 Ground called *Hill Doles* three  
 Acres, one Rood and twenty  
 Perches, at the North End there-  
 of next *Sutton Mead Lands*; out  
 of the several Fen Grounds called  
 Over Delfs and Pingles, being  
 eighteen in Number, lying on  
 the South Side of *Erith Causey*,  
 between the several Fen Grounds  
 of *Edward Carter* and *Henry*  
*White*, forty-two Acres, as the  
 same is already by Lockspits or  
 small Trenches proportionably  
 divided and set out at the South  
 End



End of every of the said eighteen several Fen Grounds, abutting upon the River *Ouse*; out of the several Fen Grounds called *Nether Delfs*, lying between *Eriib* Causey and the said Fen called *Gaul* Fen, being fifteen in Number, twenty-nine Acres, three Roods and twenty-two Perches, as the same is already also set out proportionably, and by Lockspits or small Trenches severed and divided from every of the said fifteen several Fen Grounds; out of the several Fen Ground now or late in the Tenure or Occupation of *Henry White*, lying next *Ewell* Fen, one Acre and ten Perches at the North End thereof, abutting upon the Bank of *Ewell* Fen aforesaid; out of the several Fen Grounds now or late in the Tenure or Occupation of *Thomas Pamplin*, Gent. lying on the North Side of *Eriib* Causey, two Roods at the East End thereof, abutting upon the Angle of the said Causey; out of the several Fen Ground called *Calley Croft*, lying on the North Side of *Eriib* Causey, two Roods and eight Perches at the West End thereof, abutting upon the said Causey; out of the several Fen Ground of *Humberston March*, Esq; lying on

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on the the North Side of *Eriib* Causey, one Acre at the West End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *Richard Wine*, Gent. lying on the North Side of *Eriib* Causey near *Eriib* Bridge, one Rood and ten Perches at the East Part thereof, abutting upon the said Ground of *Humberston March* aforesaid; and out of the several Fen Ground lying between *Audrey* Causey and *Ewell* Fen aforesaid, two Roods and thirty Perches at the South End thereof.

138 0 0

Out of the Common Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Wilburton*, in the said Isle of *Ely* and County of *Cambridge*, one hundred seventeen Acres and two Roods; out of the Fens called *Skeg* Fen and *Rush* Fen, at the West Sides of the said Fens abutting upon the common Fens of *Haddenham*, the River *Ouse* and the hard Lands of *Wilburton* aforesaid.

Wilburton.

117 2 0

Out of the several Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Wilburton* aforesaid, six Acres and two Roods; (that is to say) out of the several Fen Ground of *Sir Miles Sandys*, Knight, fifteen Perches abutting upon *Skeg* Fen; out of the several Ground now or late

late of — *Ware*, Yeoman, thirty Perches abutting also upon *Skeg Fen*; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of — *Sanders*, Yeoman, fifteen Perches abutting also upon *Skeg Fen*; and out of the several Fen Ground of *Thomas Towers*, Gent. six Acres and twenty Perches at the West Part thereof, abutting also upon *Skeg Fen* and the Bank of the River *Ouse*.

**Strettham  
and Thet-  
ford.**

**Out of** the common Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Strettham* and *Thetford* in the said Isle of *Ely* and County of *Cambridge*, one hundred seventy-two Acres and two Roods out of the Mow Fen of *Strettham* aforesaid, called Chair-fen Plain, at the East Side thereof, abutting upon *Chittering Dike* and the River *Ouse*.

**Out of** the several Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Strettham* and *Thetford* aforesaid, seventy-seven Acres and two Roods; (that is to say) out of the several Fen Grounds of Sir *Miles Sandys*, Knight, sixty Acres; out of the several Fen Ground called *Fidwell Fen*, at the South-east End thereof abutting upon the Severals of *Wickin* and the *Joyst Fen* in *Water Beach*; out of the several Fen Ground called *Lang-*  
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more, two Acres and one Rood  
 at the North-west End thereof,  
 next the common Fen called  
*Gould's Moor*; and out of the  
 several Fen Grounds of *Tbetford*  
 aforesaid, called the Boats Gangs,  
 fifteen Acres and one Rood;  
 (viz.) the intire several Fen  
 Ground called the Long Roods,  
 abutting upon *Wickin* Fen, con-  
 taining nine Acres, one Rood and  
 ten Perches; the intire Fen  
 Ground called the Short Roods,  
 abutting upon *Sobam* Fen, con-  
 taining two Acres and five and  
 twenty Perches; out of the se-  
 veral Ground of *Oliver Cromwel*,  
 Gent. called *Moonshell*, thirty-  
 five Perches at the South Side  
 thereof abutting upon the said  
 Fen called Short Roods; out of  
 the several Fen of *John Gifflingham*,  
 Gent. called the Lot, thirty-five  
 Perches at the East End thereof  
 abutting upon the Common Lots;  
 the intire Fen Ground called  
 Common Lots, abutting upon  
 the long Roods aforesaid, con-  
 taining two Acres and three  
 Roods; and the intire Common  
 Lot lying near *Harrimore* House,  
 between the Rivers *Ouse* and  
*Grant*, containing two Roods and  
 fifteen Perches.

Dut



Ely.

**Out of the common Fen** Grounds of or belonging to the Town and City of *Ely*, in the said Isle of *Ely* and County of *Cambridge*, one thousand three hundred and forty Acres; (that is to say) out of the common Fen called Little Shell or East Eastmore, ninety-two Acres at the West Side thereof abutting upon the common Fen called Great Shell; and the said intire common Fen called Great Shell, containing one thousand two hundred and forty eight Acres.

**Out of the several Fen** Grounds of or belonging unto the Town and City of *Ely* aforesaid, two hundred twenty and four Acres; (that is to say) out of the several Fen Ground of or belonging to *Shippey* Farm, forty Acres at the South Part thereof, abutting upon the common Fen called Great Shell; out of the several Fen Ground of or belonging to *Quanie* Farm near *Stuntry*, one intire Fen Ground called the Bye, encompassed with the common Fens of *Ely*, containing twelve Acres; out of the several Fen Ground of *William March*, Esq; called *Spain Delf*, lying near unto *Shippey* Farm, eight Acres at the North-east End thereof; out of the several

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Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Thorney* Farm, forty-seven Acres at the South-east Part thereof, abutting upon the several Fen Grounds of *Norney* Farm and the several Fen Ground of Sir *Robert Heath*, Knight, in *Sobam*, called *Great Metlam*; out of the several Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Norney* Farm, seventy-Nine Acres abutting Westward upon the black Bank, Northward upon the Grounds of *Thorney* Farm, and Southward and Eastward upon the Residue of the same Fen Ground of *Norney*; out of the several Fen Grounds late of or belonging to Sir *Simon Steward*, Knight, lying in *Stunt-* Farm, two and twenty Acres at the East Part thereof, abutting upon the Grounds of *Norney* Farm; out of eight several Fen Grounds lying between the common Fens called *Dunstal*, the several Grounds of *Thorney* Farm and *Stock Lode*, twelve Acres, as the same is lockspitted and set out at the North-east Ends of the same Grounds, abutting upon *Stock Lode* aforesaid and the Grounds of *Thorney* Farm aforesaid; and out of the several Fen Grounds of *Bream* Farm, four Acres at the South-east End thereof next the River *Ouse*.

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Out

**Out of the common Fens of** or belonging to *Stuntney*, thirty-two Acres abutting Eastward upon *Sobam* Causey, and Southward upon the common Fens of *Sobam* called the Borders.

**Littleport.**

**Out of the intercommon** Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Ely Downham* and *Littleport* in the said Isle of *Ely* and County of *Cambridge*, or to some or one of them, four thousand two hundred and ninety Acres; (that is to say) one intire common Fen called *Lowell Moor*, containing one hundred seventy-four Acres; and the Residue, being four thousand one hundred and sixteen Acres, out of the great common Fen called *Whelp Moor*, abutting North-eastward upon Part of the same Fen, lying near Priests Houses, the several Fen Grounds of *Thomas Gibbon*, Esq; the several Fen Grounds called *Redmore* Grounds, and the several Fen Grounds of *William Heveningham*, Esq; and Southward upon the said common Fen called *Lowell Moor*; the common Fen of *Ely*, called *Great Shell*, and the several Fen Grounds of *Shippy Farm* and *Spain Delf*, and toward the North-west upon the River *Ouse*.

**Out**

Out of the several Fen  
 Grounds of or belonging to *Lit-  
 tleport* aforesaid seven hundred  
 Acres; (that is to say) out of the  
 several imbanked Fen Ground of  
 or belonging to Sir *Miles Sandys*,  
 Knight and Baronet, three hun-  
 dred Acres at the North-east  
 End thereof, abutting North-  
 westward upon the several Fen  
 Ground of *Thomas Towers*, Gent.  
 North-eastward upon the several  
 Fen Ground of Sir *Henry Wil-  
 loughby*, Knight, and *Thomas Ty-  
 rel*, Gent. and South-eastward  
 upon a Close, Parcel of the same  
 imbanked Grounds, and the Bank  
 of the said Grounds near unto the  
 House called the Chain House  
 near the River *Ouse*; out of  
 the several Fen Ground of or  
 belonging to *Thomas Towers*,  
 Gent. called *Crouchmore*, seventy  
 Acres abutting upon the several  
 Fen Grounds of Sir *Henry Wil-  
 loughby*, Knight, and the said  
 imbanked Grounds of Sir *Miles  
 Sandys* aforesaid; out of the se-  
 veral Fen Ground of or belong-  
 ing to *William Hawkins*, Gent.  
 called also *Crouchmore*, fifty-five  
 Acres at the North Part of the  
 same Fen, abutting upon the com-  
 mon Fen called *Hale Fen*; and  
 the several Fen Ground of Sir



*Henry Willoughby*, Knight; out of the several Fen Ground of *Thomas Tyrell*, Gent. lying near Priests Houses, twenty-seven Acres at the West End of the same Ground; out of the several Fen Ground late of *Nicholas Milfop*, lying near *Apesball*, called the Wood-ground, fourteen Acres at the North-west Part of the same Ground, abutting upon *Westmore* and the several Grounds of *Apesball* Farm aforesaid; out of the several Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Apesball* Farm aforesaid thirty Acres; out of the several Fen called *Garners*, abutting upon the common Fen called *Westmore* and the River *Welney*; out of the several Fen Grounds now or late of *Henry Milfop*, Gen. twenty Acres; out of the several Fen called Archdeacon Croft, at the West Part thereof abutting upon the said several Fen Ground of *Thomas Milfop* and the said River of *Welney*; out of the several Fen Ground called *Cade's Croft*, five Acres, two Roods and twelve Perches at the North-west Side of the same Ground; out of the several Fen Ground of *Thomas Crab*, five Acres, two Roods and twelve Perches at the North-west

west Side thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *Roger Collin*, three Acres, one Rood and ten Perches at the South-east Side thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *John Smith*, adjoining to the Vicarage Croft, one Acre, three Roods and twenty-five Perches at the North-west Side of the same Ground; out of the adjoining several Fen Ground now or late of *John Horne*, one Acre, three Roods and twenty-five Perches at the South-east Side of the same Ground; out of the several Fen Ground of *John Hand*, four Acres, one Rood and thirty Perches at the North-west Side thereof; out of the adjoining several Fen Ground of *Widow Alderton*, four Acres, one Rood and thirty Perches at the South-east Side thereof; out of the adjoining several Fen Ground of *William Cooke*, three Acres and twenty Perches at the North-west Side thereof; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *Thomas Wadley*, three Roods and twenty Perches at the East Side thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *William Goats*, lying near *Cambridge Croft*, one Acre and thirty-two Perches at the North End thereof; out of

the adjoining several Fen Ground of *Andrew Neale*, three Roods and twenty Perches at the North End thereof; out of the adjoining several Ground of *Thomas Crabbe*, one Acre and twenty Perches at the West End thereof next *Welney River*; out of the several Fen Ground of *John Vernell*, one Acre and fifteen Perches at the North Side thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *John Day* adjoining unto Bell Croft, five Acres, three Roods and twenty-five Perches at the South Side thereof; out of the several Fen Ground late of *Jane Chambers*, two Acres, two Roods and thirty Perches at the Eastern Corner thereof; out of the adjoining several Fen Ground of *William Smith*, one Acre, three Roods and fifteen Perches at the South Side thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *George Wilson*, one Acre, three Roods and fifteen Perches at the North Side thereof; out of the adjoining several Fen Ground now or late of *John Payne*, one Acre, two Roods and thirty Perches at the South Side of the same Ground; out of the several Fen Ground of *John Goates* lying near the Grounds of *Apshall Farm*, three Acres,

Acres, one Rood and thirty Perches at the North-west Side thereof; out of the adjoining several Fen Ground of *Robert Aspland*, one Acre, two Roods and twenty-five Perches at the South-east Side thereof; out of the adjoining several Fen Ground now or late of *Thomas Millop*, one Acre, two Roods and twenty-five Perches at the North-west Side thereof; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *Robert Groom*, two Acres, one Rood and twenty-five Perches at the South-east Side thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *Sir Miles Sandys*, Knight and Baronet, six Acres and fifteen Perches at the North End of the Ground adjoining to New Dike; out of the several Fen Ground of *John Millop*, six Acres, one Rood and ten Perches at the South-east Side thereof abutting upon New Dike; out of the several Fen Ground of *Henry Meadows*, seven Acres, two Roods and thirty Perches at the West Side of the same Ground; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *Robert Alexander*, one Acre, two Roods and twenty Perches at the East Side thereof; out of the adjoining several Fen Ground of *William*  
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*Haukins*, two Acres and ten Perches at the West Side thereof; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *John Crabbe*, adjoining to the Ground called the Common Acre, three Acres at the North End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *Thomas Milfop* the Elder, adjoining to Archdeacon Croft, three Acres and one Rood at the South End of the same Ground abutting upon *Welney* River; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *Richard White*, adjoining to the aforementioned Ground of *Thomas Milfop*, one Acre, one Rood and fifteen Perches at the South-east Corner of the same Ground next *Welney* River; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *William Wright*, three Acres and three Roods on the West Side thereof adjoining to the Ground belonging to *Welney* Chapel; out of the said several Fen Ground belonging to *Welney* Chapel, one Acre at the East Corner thereof; out of the adjoining several Fen Ground of *Christopher Clark*, two Acres and three Roods at the West Side thereof; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *Nicholas Veres*, one Acre, two Roods

Roods and twenty Perches at the South-east Side of the same Ground; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *Richard Mares*, one Acre, one Rood and twenty Perches at the West Side thereof; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *Thomas Sharp*, three Acres, two Roods and twenty Perches at the West Side thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *Thomas Wilson*, near adjoining to the Fen Ground called the Hundred Acres, three Acres and one Rood at the East Side thereof; out of the adjoining Fen Ground now or late of *Thomas Milfop*, nine Acres, one Rood and twelve Perches at the West Side thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *Richard Ward*, three Acres at the East Part thereof; out of the several Ground of *Robert Lukin*, Esq; being Part of the Ground called the Hundred Acres, fourteen Acres at the West Side thereof; out of the several Ground of *Widow Crab*, being also Part of the Ground called the Hundred Acres, sixteen Acres and three Roods at the West Side thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *John Cole*, Gent. adjoining to the Ground called *Garners*, seven Acres,

Acres, two Roods and ten Perches at the East Part thereof abutting upon *Welney* River; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *William Johnson*, four Acres and two Roods at the North-west Corner thereof abutting upon *Welney* River; out of the several Fen Grounds of — *Goats*, Yeoman, adjoining to the Common Acre, three Roods and ten Perches at the North-west Side thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *John Day*, adjoining to the common Acre, one Acre, two Roods and twenty Perches at the South-west End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *Thomas Plumme* and *Thomas Clarke*, one Acre and ten Perches at the South End thereof next the Wood Grounds of *Apshall* Farm; out of the several Fen Grounds of *Samuel Kinswick*, at the South End thereof, one Acre, one Rood and ten Perches; out of the several Ground now or late of *Thomas Paynter*, one Acre, two Roods and twelve Perches at the South-west End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *John Hand*, adjoining unto the Fen Ground called *Apshall* afore-said, one Acre, one Rood and twenty Perches at the South-west End

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End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *Thomas Boughton*, three Roods and twenty Perches at the North-west Part of the same Ground; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *John Glasier*, one Acre and thirty-five Perches at the North-west End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *Thomas Milfop*, called *Whinne-bush* Croft, three Acres and twenty Perches at the North-west Part thereof; and out of the several Ground called *Cambridge* Crofts, eight Acres, two Roods and ten Perches at the West Side thereof abutting upon *Welney* River and the *Mare* Fen.

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Out of the several Fen Ground of or belonging to *Thomas Gibbon*, Esq; lying between the common Fen called *Whelp* Moor, and the River of *Brandon*, one hundred and ninety-Acres at the South End thereof abutting upon the Fen Grounds called *Redmore* Grounds.

190 0 0

Out of the several Fen Grounds called *Redmore* Grounds, lying between the said common Fen called *Whelpmore* and the River of *Brandon*, one hundred twenty-six Acres at the South Part

*Redmore*  
*Grounds.*



Part of the same Grounds, abutting upon the several Fen Ground of *William Heveningham, Esq;* and the said River of *Brandon*.

126 0 0

**Downham**  
in the Isle.

Out of the common Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Downham*, in the said Isle of *Ely* and County of *Cambridge*, called *West Fen*, three hundred eighty-eight Acres and two Roods abutting South-westward upon the common Fen Grounds called *Pye Moor* and *Ashwell Moor*.

388 2 0

Out of the several Fen Ground of *John Carter*, lying near *Downham Hive*, one Acre and two Roods at the North-east Corner thereof.

1 2 0

**Westmoor.**

Out of the great intercommon Fen called *Westmoor* and *Cranmoor*, in the said Isle of *Ely* and County of *Cambridge*, five thousand Acres, (that is to say) three thousand Acres on the South Side of *Bedford River*, bounded North-westward with the same River, Eastward with *Welney River* and the several Fen Grounds of *Littleport* and *Welney* adjoining to the said River of *Welney*, and Westward with *Oxewillow Lode*; and the Residue, being two thousand Acres, out of

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of that Part of the said Fen that lieth on the North Side of *Bedford* River aforesaid, abutting upon the said River and *Oxewillow* Lode aforesaid.

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**Out of** the common Fen Ground called *Hale* Fen, lying in or near *Coveney* in the said Isle of *Ely* and County of *Cambridge*, one hundred and eighty Acres, abutting Eastward upon the hard Lands of *Coveney*, and the Gravel-way leading to *Coveney*, and on all other Parts upon the Residue of the same Fen.

180 0 0

**Out of** one other common Fen Ground lying in or near *Coveney* aforesaid, called *Ashwell* Moor or *Sedge* Fen, four hundred twenty-three Acres, abutting Eastward upon *Pye* Moor, Westward upon the several Fen Ground of *Coveney* called *Hale* Fen, and Northward upon West Fen in *Downham* aforesaid.

423 0 0

**Out of** the several Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Coveney* aforesaid, called the Great Dams, one hundred fifty-seven Acres, three Roods and Ten Perches; (that is to say) out of the several Fen Ground of *John Davies*, three Acres, two Roods and ten Perches at the North-west End thereof; out of the several Fen

Coveney.

Fen Ground of *Thomas Whine*, Junior, three Acres, one Rood and twenty-four Perches at the South-east End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *William Smith*, two Acres, three Roods and thirty-six Perches at the South-west Side thereof; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *Thomas Watson*, three Acres, three Roods and twenty Perches at the North-west End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *John Watson*, two Acres, three Roods and thirty Perches at the North-west End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *Joan Pope*, Widow, ten Acres, two Roods and ten Perches at the North-west End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *John Linwood*, eighteen Acres and fifteen Perches at the North-west End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *Richard Gooday*, seventeen Acres, three Roods and ten Perches at the North-west End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *Thomas Smith*, three Acres and one Rood at the East Corner thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *John Smith*, three Acres and thirty-five Perches at the South-east Corner thereof;

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out of the severall Fen Ground of *Thomas Winter*, adjoining to *Coveney Lode*, nine Acres at the North-east Side thereof; out of the severall Fen Ground of *Robert Matthews*, eight Acres, three Roods and ten Perches at the North Side thereof; out of the severall Fen Ground of *Humberstone March*, Esq; abutting upon *Coveney Lode* and the Way leading unto *Biall Fen*, eighteen Acres and twenty Perches at the South-east End thereof; one intire Fen Ground of *William Sharp*, Gent. lying between *Biall Fen* and the Way leading from *Biall Fen* to *Coveney*, containing sixteen Acres and two Roods; out of the severall Fen Ground of *Peter Rider*, one Acre and thirty Perches at the South-west End thereof; out of the severall Fen Ground of *John Whinne*, three Acres, two Roods and ten Perches at the East End thereof; one intire severall Fen Ground, lying between *Biall Fen* and the Ground of *Robert Andrews*, containing fourteen Acres and two Roods; and out of the severall Fen Ground of *Peter Andrews*, sixteen Acres, one Rood and thirty Perches at the East End thereof.

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**Out of** the several Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Coveney* aforeſaid, called the New Dams, fifty-five Acres, two Roods and fifteen Perches; (that is to ſay) out of the ſeveral Fen Ground of *Francis Sanderſon*, two Acres and one Rood at the North End thereof; out of the ſeveral Fen Ground of *Mary Ruſden*, one Acre, one Rood and fifteen Perches at the North End thereof; one intire ſeveral Fen Ground of *Robert Matthews* abutting Weſtward upon the hard Lands of *Coveney*, containing fourteen Acres; out of the ſeveral Fen Ground of *John Cocke*, three Acres at the Eaſt End thereof; out of the ſeveral Fen Ground called the Town Dam, three Acres at the Eaſt End thereof; and three intire ſeveral Fen Grounds of *William Sharp*, Gent. lying together and abutting upon *Aſhwell* Moor and the hard Lands of *Coveney*, containing thirty-two Acres.

**Out of** the ſeveral Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Coveney* aforeſaid, called *Hall* Fen thirty Acres, three Roods and thirty Perches, at the Eaſt Side thereof abutting upon *Aſhwell* Moor.

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 veney aforefaid, called *Block*  
*Moors*, nineteen Acres, one  
 Rood and five Perches; (that is  
 to fay) out of the three several Fen  
 Grounds of *John Watson*, *Agnes*  
*Watson* and *Hellen Watson*, one  
 Rood a-piece at the North Ends  
 of the same Grounds; out of  
 the several Fen Grounds of *Moses*  
*Whitecake*, three Roods and  
 thirty-four Perches at the North-  
 west End thereof; out of the se-  
 veral Fen Ground of *John Gave-*  
*beck*, three Roods and thirty  
 Perches at the North-west End  
 thereof; out of the several Fen  
 Ground of *Mary Allen*, three  
 Roods and thirty-five Perches  
 at the South-west Side thereof;  
 out of the two several Fen  
 Grounds of *John Kaye* and *John*  
*Hill*, Clerk, one Rood and thirty-  
 eight Perches a-piece at the  
 North-west Ends of the same  
 Grounds; out of the several Fen  
 Ground of *Robert Andrews*, one  
 Acre and two Roods at the  
 North-west End thereof; out of  
 the several Fen Ground of *Henry*  
*Biddle*, one Acre, two Roods  
 and ten Perches at the North End  
 thereof; out of the several Fen  
 Ground of *Katherine Winter*, five  
 M Acres

Acres and thirty Perches at the West Side thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *Elizabeth Barber*, three Acres, three Roods and ten Perches at the West Side thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *Richard Gunton*, one Rood and thirty-four Perches at the North End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *Thomas Meakes*, one Rood and twenty-six Perches at the North End thereof; and one intire Fen of *William Sharp*, Gent. adjoining Eastward upon the hard Lands of *Coveney*, containing one Acre and three Roods.

**Out** of the several Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Coveney* aforesaid, called the Pingles, thirteen Acres, one Rood and twenty Perches; (that is to say) one intire several Fen Ground of *Thomas Winter*, lying between the hard Lands of *Coveney* and *Coveney Lode*, containing eleven Acres; and out of the several Fen Grounds now or late of *Thomas Hobbie* and *Francis Sanderfon*, two Acres, one Rood and twenty Perches at the North-west End thereof.

**Out**

Out of the great intercommon Fen Ground, called *Biall* Fen, in the said Isle of *Ely* and County of *Cambridge*, two thousand and two hundred Acres; (that is to say) two thousand Acres abutting upon the North-west Side of *Bedford* River, and Westward upon *Langwood* Fen and *Wicham* Mead Lands, and South-westward upon *Gaule* Fen in *Meall*; and two hundred Acres abutting upon the South-east Side of *Bedford* River and *Oxwillow* Lode.

*Biall* Fen,

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Out of the common Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Maney*, in the said Isle of *Ely* and County of *Cambridge*, called the Dams, abutting upon *Stoney* Fen, two hundred and thirty Acres at the West Side thereof abutting upon *Twisle* Lode.

*Maney*.

230 0 0

Out of the several Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Maney* aforesaid twenty Acres; (that is to say) out of the several Fen Grounds of *Robert Neale*, adjoining to the Dams of *Maney* aforesaid, ten Acres abutting upon *Twisle* Lode and *Stoney* Fen in *Dodington*; out of the several Fen Ground of *Thomas Sisson*, lying next *Cranmore*, three Acres at the East Side thereof; out of



the several Fen Ground of *Richard Wellbie*, thirty-six Perches at the North End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *George Wright*, one Rood and six Perches at the North End thereof. Out of the several Fen Ground of *Nathaniel Thinne*, two Roods at the North End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *John Sisson*, two Roods and twenty Perches at the South Corner thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *William Jenes*, one Rood and thirty Perches at the East Corner thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *Oliver Galloway*, two Roods and thirty Perches at the South End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *Jeremy Freeman*, one Rood and thirty-four Perches at the West End thereof; out of the several *Holt* Fen Grounds of *John Goulden*, two Roods and twenty Perches at the South End thereof; out of the several *Holt* Fen Ground of *John Hill*, twenty Perches at the South End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *William Harrison*, two Roods at the South End thereof; and out of the several Fen Ground of *William*

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*Wicham Freemam*, two Acres, two Roods and four Perches at the South-east Side thereof.

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*Wichford.*

**Out of** the common Fen Ground called *Pye Moor* near *Wichford*, in the said Isle of *Ely* and County of *Cambridge*, one hundred fifty-two Acres abutting upon *Downham West Fen* and *Aswell Moor*.

152 0 0

**Out of** the common Fen Ground called *Gruntey Fen*, in the said Isle of *Ely* and County of *Cambridge*, four hundred twenty-six Acres abutting North-westward upon the hard Lands and in all other Parts encompassed with the Residue of the said Fen.

*Gruntey Fen.*

426 0 0

**Out of** the common Fen Ground of or belonging to *Wicham* in the said Isle of *Ely* and County of *Cambridge*, called *Widdon*, ten Acres abutting westward upon the several Fen Grounds of *Mepall* called *Widdon*, and Northward upon the several Fen Grounds of *Wicham* called *Cawcroft*.

*Wicham.*

10 0 0

**Out of** the several Fen Grounds of *Wicham* called *Cawcroft*, consisting of the Lots or Doles of Divers Persons, twenty-nine Acres and two Roods, as the same is lock-titted and set out at the North End of the same Lots next *Biall Fen*.

29 2 0

Out of the severall Fen  
 Grounds of *Wicham* aforesaid,  
 called *Wicham* Mead Lands,  
 thirty Acres and two Roods;  
 (that is to say) out of the severall  
 Fen Grounds of *George Peacock*,  
*Thomas Gooday* and *John Merrell*,  
 three Acres and one Rood, as the  
 same is lockspitted, divided and  
 set out at the West End of the  
 same Grounds abutting upon  
*Mepall* Gaul Fen; out of the  
 Lots or Doles lying between the  
 last mentioned Grounds and the  
 Lot or Dole of *John Belwood*,  
 belonging to divers Persons,  
 twelve Acres, three Roods and  
 ten Perches at the North-west  
 End thereof abutting upon *Block*  
 Fen; out of the Lots or Doles  
 lying between the great Lot of  
*George Peacock* and the old Dairy  
 House of *John Merrell*, belong-  
 ing unto divers Persons, seven  
 Acres, one Rood and thirty  
 Perches at the South End thereof,  
 abutting upon *Biall* Fen; out of  
 the two Lots of the said *John*  
*Merrell* and of — *Chapman*,  
 Gent. called North Doles, seven  
 Acres as the same is lockspitted,  
 divided and set out, at the North  
 Ends of the same Doles abutting  
 upon *Langwood* Fen.

Out

Out of the common Fen Ground of or belonging to *Mepall*, in the said Isle of *Ely* and County of *Cambridge*, called *Gaule Fen*, fifty-three Acres abutting upon the North Side of *Bedford River* and upon *Biall Fen*.

*Mepall.*

53 p o

Out of the several Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Mepall* aforesaid, called *Widdon*, eight Acres; (that is to say) out of the several Fen Ground of *Robert Brown*, two Roods and two Perches at the North End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of — *Clinch*, lying next but one to the said Ground of *Robert Brown*, three Roods and eighteen Perches at the North-east End thereof next *Wicham* Severals; out of the adjoining several Fen Grounds of *Thomas Whinnie*, three Roods and seventeen Perches at the North-east End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of — *Bradford*, Gent. one Rood and thirty-five Perches at the East End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *William Smith*, two Roods and twelve Perches at the Eastern End thereof; out of the adjoining several Fen Ground of *Thomas Aspland*, one Acre at the Eastern End thereof; out of

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the several Fen Ground of *John Phippe*, two Roods and two Perches at the Eastern End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *George Aspland*, one Rood and thirty-four Perches at the East End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground in the Occupation of *Widow Smith*, one Rood and thirty Perches at the East End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *Edmund Aspland*, one Rood and thirty Perches at the East End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *John Addams*, three Roods and eight Perches at the East End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *John Whiting*, two Roods and eight Perches at the East End thereof; and out of the several Fen Ground of *William Whinne*, two Roods and four Perches at the East End thereof.

**Out of** the several Fen Grounds of *Mercy Carter*, Widow, belonging to *Mepall* aforesaid, twenty-five Acres at the North End of the Ground called the *Holts*.

**Out of** the several Fen Ground in *Mepall* aforesaid, called *Fur Fen*, twelve Acres, three Roods and four Perches at the South Side thereof abutting upon *Bedford River*.

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**Out of the several Fen**  
Ground of — *Gederil*, Genr.  
lying between *Gaul* Fen and  
*Wicham* Mead Lands, Six Acres  
and two Roods at the North  
West End thereof. } 6 2 0

**Out of the several Fen**  
Ground of *John Phippe*, lying  
in *Mepall* aforesaid, abutting up-  
on *Block* Fen, one Acre and  
twenty-two Perches at the South  
End thereof. } 1 0 22

**Out of the several Fen**  
Ground of — *Wigmore*, Gent.  
lying in *Mepall* aforesaid and  
joining unto *Block* Fen, one Acre,  
two Roods and thirty Perches at  
the North-east End thereof. } 1 2 30

**Out of the several Fen**  
Ground of *Thomas Aspland*, lying  
in *Mepall* aforesaid, adjoining  
also unto *Block* Fen, one Acre  
and one Rood, and twenty-four  
Perches at the North End  
thereof. } 1 1 24

**Out of the several or late in-**  
closed Fen Grounds of *Mepall*  
aforesaid, called *Block* Fen or  
*Block* Moor, lying on the North  
Side of *Bedford* River, one hun-  
dred thirty-nine Acres and two  
Roods; (that is to say) out of  
the Grounds of *Thomas Whinne*,  
and divers others, lying together  
undivided, adjoining unto North  
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**Mepall  
Severals.**

Fen in *Sutton*, fourteen Acres, three Roods and five Perches abutting upon *Bedford* River aforesaid; one intire Fen Ground of *John Whinne*, abutting upon *Sutton* North Fen, containing one Acre and two Roods; out of the severall Fen Grounds of *Thomas Aspland*, *John Adams*, *James Adcroft*, *Richard Holding*, *William Bird* and Widow *Ratham*, adjoining unto *Sutton* North Fen, eleven Acres, three Roods and ten Perches, as the same is proportionably set out and lock-spitted, at the West Ends of the same Grounds next *Sutton* North Fen aforesaid; out of the severall Fen Ground of *Thomas Aspland* the Elder, adjoining to *Sutton* North Fen, three Acres and thirty Perches at the North Side thereof; out of the severall Fen Ground of Widow *Brown*, adjoining upon *Sutton* North Fen, two Acres, two Roods and ten Perches at the West End thereof; out of the severall Fen Grounds lying between the said Ground of Widow *Brown*, North Fen in *Sutton*, the Grounds of *Chatteresse*, and the Way in *Mepall* Block Fen, sixty Acres, three Roods and thirty-four Perches, proportionably

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tionably set out, lockspitted and divided from every of the said Grounds; out of the several Fen Ground of — *Wigmore*, Gent. abutting upon *Bedford* River and the Way in Block Fen, one Acre abutting upon *Bedford* River aforesaid; out of the several Fen Ground of *Mercy Carter*, Widow, lying between *Fur* Fen and the Way in Block Fen, eighteen Acres and fifteen Perches at the North End of the same Grounds; out of the several Fen Ground of *George Wabie*, adjoining unto *Fur* Fen, three Acres at the East End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *George Aspland*, adjoining upon two Fen Grounds of Widow *Ratham*, two Acres, three Roods and thirty-two Perches; out of the several Fen Ground of *Thomas Whinne*, lying between the Grounds of *Richard Cooper* and *John Adams*, three Acres at the West End of the same Ground; out of the several Fen Ground of *John Adams*, lying between the Grounds of *Thomas Whinne* and *William Whinne*, three Acres and ten Perches at the North Side thereof; out of the next adjoining several Fen Ground now or late of *William Whinne*, three Acres



Acres and one Rood at the East End thereof; out of the next adjoining several Fen Ground now or late of *Thomas Whinne*, three Acres, two Roods and eighteen Perches; and out of the several Fen Grounds now or late of *Richard Cooper*, adjoining upon Block Fen in *Chateresse*, six Acres, two Roods and thirty-six Perches at the North Side thereof.

139 2 0

**Sutton in the Isle.**

**Out of** the several Fen Ground called Middle Moor, lying in *Sutton* in the said Isle of *Ely* and County of *Cambridge*, thirty-seven Acres abutting upon the South Side of *Bedford River*.

37 0 0

**Out of** the Fen Grounds in *Sutton* aforesaid, called North Mead-lands and South Mead-lands, one hundred seventy-five Acres, abutting upon the Middle Moor aforesaid and upon the North Side of the said new River called *Bedford River*.

175 0 0

**Out of** the several Fen Ground of *Perry Federel*, Gent. lying in *Sutton* aforesaid, near the Place called *Sutton Gravel*, and encompassed with divers Other Holts, one Acre and one Rood at the East End thereof.

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several Fen Grounds in *Sutton*  
aforesaid, lying near *Erith* Cau-  
sey, called Cocks Nests, four  
Acres and three Roods; (that is  
to say) out of the Grounds be-  
longing to the Dean and Chap-  
ter of *Ely*, one Acre, two Roods  
and twenty Perches at the South  
Side thereof; out of the Ground  
of — *Drury*, Gent. one Acre,  
two Roods and ten Perches at  
the South Side thereof; out of  
the Ground of — *Carter*,  
Gent. three Roods and twenty  
Perches at the South Side thereof;  
and out of the Grounds of *John*  
*Taylor*, two Roods and thirty  
Perches at the South Side  
thereof.

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Out of the several or late in-  
closed Fen Grounds of or be-  
longing to *Sutton* aforesaid, lying  
on both Sides of the said new  
River called *Bedford* River, eight  
hundred sixty and two Acres;  
(that is to say) out of the several  
and late inclosed Fen Grounds  
lying on the North Side of the  
said new River, six hundred  
Acres; (*viz.*) out of the several  
Fen Grounds called *Little Hal-*  
*wood*, forty-three Acres, one  
Rood and fifteen Perches at the  
South Part of the same Ground,  
abutting

abutting upon the Fen Ground called North Mead-lands and the West Water; out of the several and late inclosed Fen Grounds lying in West Fen on the North Side of *Bedford* River, being one hundred and Sixteen in Number, two hundred fifty-eight Acres, three Roods and eleven Perches, as the same is already by Lockspits or small Trenches proportionally set out and divided from every of the said hundred and sixteen several Fen Grounds; out of the several and late inclosed Fen Grounds lying in Middle Fen, on the North Side of the said River, being eleven in Number, twenty-three Acres and eleven Perches, as the same is also already by Lockspits or small Trenches proportionally set out and divided from every of the said eleven several Fen Grounds; out of the several and late inclosed Fen Grounds lying in North Fen, on the North Side of the said River, being ninety-four in Number, two hundred seventy-four Acres, three Roods and three Perches, as the same is also already by Lockspits or small Trenches proportionally set out and divided from every of the said ninety-four several Fen Grounds.

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Out of the several or late inclosed Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Sutton* aforesaid, lying on the South Side of *Bedford* River, being one hundred twenty-two in Number, two hundred sixty-two Acres, as the same is already by Lockspits or small Trenches proportionally set out, severed and divided from every of the said one hundred twenty-two inclosed Grounds; (that is to say) out of the inclosed Fen Grounds called *Tween* Ditches, being eight in Number, fourteen Acres, as the same is proportionally set out as aforesaid; out of the late inclosed Grounds called *Manymans*'s Doles, lying between *Sutton* Causey and the Way leading to South Mead-lands on the South Side of *Bedford* River, being four in Number, five Acres, two Roods and twenty-four Perches, as the same is also set out and divided as aforesaid. Out of the late inclosed Fen Grounds, lying between South Mead-lands, the said Grounds called *Tween* Ditches, the said Grounds called *Manymans*'s Doles, *Sutton*, *Gravell*, the hard Lands of *Sutton*, the Grounds of divers Men in South Fen lying undivided, the Ground of *Robert Gunton*

*Sutton,*  
*South of*  
*Bedford*  
*River.*



*Gunton* abutting upon *Haddenham* Fen, and the common Fen Ground of *Haddenham* called small Fen, being fifty-seven in Number, ninety-one Acres, one Rood and thirteen Perches, as the same is also set out and divided as aforesaid; out of the late inclosed Fen Grounds, lying between the Fen Ground of *Robert Peacock*, abutting upon *Haddenham* Common aforesaid; the several Fen Ground of — *Federel*, Gent. lying in South Fen aforesaid, the hard Lands of *Sutton*, the common Fen Grounds of *Wentworth*, and the said Common Fen of *Haddenham* called Small Fen, being twelve in Number, seventy-two Acres and ten Perches, as the same is also set out and divided as aforesaid; out of the late inclosed Fen Grounds lying between *Sutton* Gravel, North Mead-lands, and the Grounds in West Fen, and called also *Manyman's* Doles, being nine in Number, thirteen Acres, two Roods and sixteen Perches, as the same is also set out and divided as aforesaid; out of the late inclosed Fen Ground called the *Berry* Lot, fourteen Acres and seventeen Perches, as the same is set out and divided as aforesaid, at the

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the South-west Part thereof; out of the late inclosed Fen Grounds lying in West Fen, on the said South Side of *Bedford* River, being fourteen in Number, twenty-two Acres, as the same is also set out and divided as aforesaid; out of the late inclosed Fen Grounds, lying between West Fen aforesaid, the *Gaultway* and the hard Lands of *Sutton*, being four in Number, six Acres and twenty Perches, as the same is also set out and divided as aforesaid; and out of the late inclosed Fen Grounds lying between the said *Gaultway*, the said new River called *Bedford* River, the Grounds of *Mepall*, and the hard Lands of *Sutton*, being thirteen in Number, twenty-three Acres and twenty Perches, as the same is also divided and set out as aforesaid.

262. 0. 0

Out of the common Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Chartresse*, in the said Isle of *Ely* and County of *Cambridge*, three thousand eight hundred and twenty-six Acres; (that is to say) out of the common Fen called *Normore*, one thousand six hundred and ten Acres, abutting upon *Dodington Leame* and the  
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hard Lands of *Honey*; out of the Common Fen called *Langwood* Fen, nine hundred and twenty Acres, adjoining upon *Block* Fen, and the Fen called *Wenney* or *Whinney* Fen, and the Mead Lands of *Wicham*; out of the said common Fen Ground called *Wenney* or *Whinney* Fen, three hundred Acres abutting upon *Langwood* Fen and *Block* Fen afore said; out of the common Fen Ground called *Rough* West Moor, five hundred ninety-six Acres at the North Part of the same Fen, abutting upon the common Fen called *Beeselings*, and the hard Lands called *Willy* Heath; and out of the common Fen Grounds called *Curfe* and *Gore*, four hundred Acres, abutting upon *Dodington* Leame and the Gravel Way near the old Eawe leading unto *Dodington*.

Dut of the several Fen Grounds of or belonging unto — *Wendy*, Esq; lying in *Chartresse* afore said, being Parcel of the several Fen called *Abbots* *Holwood*, two hundred thirty-four Acres, abutting upon the several Grounds in *Chartresse* afore said, called the old *Hanes*, and upon the West Water.

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Out of the Fen Ground in the several Possession of *Besteney Betts*, Esq; called *Block Fen*, eighty-nine Acres and a half, abutting upon *Wicham Meadlands* and *Langwood Fen* aforesaid.

89 2 0

Out of the several Fen Grounds in *Chartresse* aforesaid, called the old *Hanes*, one hundred and five Acres, one Rood and twenty Perches, as the same is already proportionally by Lockspits or small Trenches divided and set out; (that is to say) out of the Ground called the Town Meadow, two Acres, two Roods and thirty-three Perches at the South-east Part thereof; out of the Ground of *Besteney Bruce*, three Acres, one Rood and thirty Perches at the North-east Part thereof; out of the Ground of Widow *Matthewes*, four Acres, two Roods and thirty Perches at the South End thereof; out of the Ground of — *Trice*, Gent. called *Pickerell's Fen*, four Acres and one Rood at the South End thereof; out of the Ground of *Thomas Keete*, two Acres, two Roods and five Perches at the North-west End thereof; out of the Ground of *John Legerton*, two Acres, three Roods and

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thirty.



thirty-two Perches at the North-west End thereof; out of the Ground of *William Dring*, four Acres and six Perches at the North-east Part thereof; out of the Ground of *Richard Reade* and *William Dring*, two Acres, three Roods and ten Perches at the North-east Part thereof; the intire Fen Ground of *Robert Vintner*, Gent. lying between the Grounds of *Besteney Bruce* aforesaid and *Richard Campe*, containing eleven Acres, three Roods and twenty Perches; out of the said Ground of *Thomas Campe*, one Acre and two Roods at the East End thereof; out of the Ground of *John Tye*, one Acre and two Roods at the East Part thereof; out of the Ground of *Robert Rasb*, *Reynold Walsbam* and *Thomas Curde*, five Acres, two Roods and fifteen Perches, set out as aforesaid, at the East Part of the same Ground; out of the Ground of *Widow Duke*, two Acres at the North Part thereof; out of the Ground of *Thomas Tye*, two Acres, two Roods and twelve Perches at the North-west Part thereof; out of the Grounds of *Robert Bruce*, *Robert Reade*, *William Dring*, and *Robert Edges*, seven Acres and

and one Rood, set out as afore-  
 said, at the East Ends of the  
 said Grounds; out of the adjoining  
 Grounds of *Martin Bend*  
 and *Richard Cooper*, four Acres  
 and one Rood, set out as afore-  
 said, at the East Ends of the  
 said Grounds; out of the Grounds  
 of *Richard Lambe*, *John Reade*,  
*Thomas Wright*, *Thomas Rose*, and  
*John Reason*, seven Acres and  
 ten Perches, set out as aforesaid,  
 at the East Ends of the said  
 Grounds; out of the Ground of  
 — *Castle*, Gent. lying next  
 the several Ground of — *Wen-*  
*dye*, Esq; in *Abbots Holwood*  
 aforesaid, nine Acres, two Roods  
 and ten Perches at the North-  
 east Corner thereof; out of the  
 Ground of *Thomas Reade*, one  
 Acre, three Roods and thirty-two  
 Perches at the West Part thereof;  
 one intire Fen Ground of *Rich-*  
*ard Dring*, lying between the  
 last-mentioned Grounds of *Tho-*  
*mas Reade* and the Ground of  
*Thomas Campe*, abutting upon  
 the said several Ground of —  
*Wendye* aforesaid, containing se-  
 ven Acres, two Roods and ten  
 Perches; out of the Ground of  
*John Rutter*, six Acres, two  
 Roods and five Perches at  
 the East Side thereof, abutting  
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upon the Ground of *Thomas Campe*; and out of the said Ground of *Thomas Campe*, lying next the several Fen Grounds of *Sutton* called the *Middle*, eight Acres and three Roods, abutting upon the said Grounds in *Sutton*.

Out of the several Fen Grounds in *Chartresse* afore said, called *Honey Fen*, forty Acres at the South Part of the same Grounds, abutting upon *Langwood Fen* and *Biall Fen*.

Out of the several Fen Grounds in *Chartresse* afore said, called the *Restiges*, forty Acres and twenty Perches; (that is to say) one intire several Fen Ground of *Besteney Betts*, Esq; abutting upon *Beeseling's Fen* in *Dodington*, containing twenty-seven Acres; out of the Ground of the said *Besteney Betts*, called the *Mile*, four Acres and sixteen Perches at the North End thereof; out of the Ground late of Sir *Thomas Hedley*, Knight, two Acres, two Roods and thirty-four Perches at the East End thereof; out of the Ground of *William Reeve*, three Acres and twenty Perches at the East End thereof; and out of the Ground of *Robert Peyton*, Esq; three Acres and thirty Perches at the East Part thereof.

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Out of the common Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Dodington, March, Benwick* and *Wimblington*, in the said Isle of *Ely* and County of *Cambridge*, or to some or one of them, seven thousand seven hundred ninety-seven Acres; (that is to say) out of the common Fen called *Pulver Fen*, and *Turfe Fen*, one thousand three hundred Acres at the East Part thereof, abutting upon the Fen called *Beefeling's* Fen; out of the said common Fen called *Beefeling's* Fen, three hundred forty-four Acres at the South End thereof, abutting upon *West Water*; out of the common Fen called *Dikamoore*, seven hundred fifty-six Acres, abutting upon the *West Water* and the Bank called *Copalder Bank*; out of the common Fen Grounds called *Stoney Fen* and *Block Fen*, one thousand and seven hundred Acres at the East Part thereof next unto *Maney*; out of the common Fen Ground called *Burrough Moor*, five hundred Acres, abutting upon *Ransome Moor* and the River *Neane*; out of the common Fen called *Whitemoor*, one thousand Acres at the North-west Part thereof, abutting upon *Plant Water* and

*Dodington,*  
*Wimblington,*  
*March*  
and *Benwick.*



the common Fens of *Wisbich*; out of the common Fen called *Wich* Fen, two hundred Acres at the South Part thereof, abutting upon *Dodington Leame* and the common Fen called *Stowe* Fen; out of the common Fen called the *Middle*, two hundred Acres, abutting upon Plant Water and the River *Neane*; out of the common Fen called great *Binnie Moor*, four hundred and fifty Acres at the East Part thereof, abutting upon the Fen called *Gray's Fen*, and the Lake called the *Old Chair*; out of the common Fen called *Creek Fen*, four hundred and sixty Acres at the North-east Part thereof, abutting Northward upon the common Fen called *Ladys Fen*, and upon the several Fen Grounds of *Robert Peyton, Esq;* and out of the common Fens called *Horse Moor* and little *Binnie Moor*, eight hundred eighty-seven Acres at the East Part thereof, abutting upon the imbanked several Ground called *Horse Moor*.

**Out of** the Fen called *West Fen*, lying between the River *Neane*, *Plant Water*, *Stern Ea*, or South Lake, the new Dike made from *Stern Ea*, or South Lake aforesaid, unto *West-fen Close*,

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Close, the said Ground called West-fen Close, Whoredome Lake, and *Whitlesea* Dike, two thousand four hundred eighty-three Acres at the South Part of the same Ground, abutting Eastward upon *Plant Water* and the River *Neane*, Southward upon *Wilesea* Dike, called at that Place *Saddlebow Mile*, and Westward upon Whoredome Lake, West-fen Close, and the new Dike aforesaid.

&gt; 2483 0 0

Out of the imbanked several Fen Ground late of *Robert Peyton*, Esq; one thousand five hundred and fifty Acres; (that is to say) out of the several imbanked fen Ground, called *Stoney Fen*, one thousand three hundred twenty-five Acres at the East Part thereof, abutting upon the Fen called *Chaffer Fen*, the the Fens of *Maney* called the *Dams*, and the common Fen called *Stoney Fen*; and out of the imbanked several Fen Ground now or late in the Occupation of *William Sames*, Doctor of the Law, called *Horse Moor*, two hundred twenty-five Acres at the North East Part thereof, abutting upon the Fens called *Gray's Fen* and great *Binnie Moore*.

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Out

**Out** of the other several Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Dodington, March, Benwick and Wimblington* aforesaid, nine hundred and nineteen Acres; (that is to say) out of the several Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Robert Peyton, Esq;* one hundred thirty-three Acres and twenty Perches; (*viz.*) one intire Fen lying in *Norwood* Severals, abutting upon the several Fen Ground of *William Wrag*, containing one hundred and three Acres; one other intire Fen Ground, abutting upon the Bank of *Waldersley* and a several Ground belonging to *Henry Finimore*, containing eighteen Acres and three Roods; and out of a several Fen Ground adjoining to the Part of *Whitemoore* called *Mary's Hurne*, and the several Fen Ground of *Thomas Tyrell, Gent.* eleven Acres, one Rood and twenty Perches at the South Part thereof next *Whitemoore* aforesaid.

**Out** of the several Fen Ground of or belonging to *Robert Balam, Esq;* lying near *Waldersley* Bank, sixty-nine Acres, one Rood and five Perches; (*viz.*) one intire Fen Ground abutting

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abutting upon *Saaper's Drove* and *Waldersey Bank*, containing forty-nine Acres, and one Rood and five Perches; and out of the several Fen Ground lying on the East Side of *Norwood Causey*, twenty Acres at the West End of the same Ground, abutting upon the several Fen Ground now or late of Widow *Southwell*.

69 1 05

Out of the several Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Henry Finimore*, Gent. lying in *March* aforesaid, forty-two Acres and two Roods at the North-east Side of the Grounds called *Otter Holts*, lying near Plant Water, abutting upon Plant Water and the several Fen Ground of *Thomas Shepheard*.

42 2 00

Out of the several Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Thomas Tyrell*, Gent. forty-five Acres, one Rood and ten Perches; (*viz.*) one inire several Fen Ground abutting upon Plant Water and West Fen, containing thirty-five Acres and two Roods; and out of his several Ground lying in *Norwood* several, betwixt two several Grounds of *Robert Peyton* aforesaid, nine Acres, three Roods and ten Perches at the West Side thereof.

45 1 10

Out



**Out** of the several Fen Ground called the Hundred Acres, lying near unto *Maney*, twenty-five Acres at the South End thereof, next the several Grounds of *Maney* aforesaid. } 25 0 00

**Out** of the several Fen Ground called *Graye's* Fen, forty-four Acres at the North End thereof, abutting upon great *Binnie* Moor. } 44 0 00

**Out** of the several Fen Ground called *Reade's* Fen, thirty Acres, abutting upon *Well Pingle* and the River *Neane*. } 30 0 00

**Out** of the several Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Robert Pierston*, twenty-one Acres, one Rood and thirty-five Perches; (*viz.*) out of the Ground lying near unto *Hobbs* Dike, eight Acres, three Roods and ten Perches at the South End thereof, abutting upon the old Drove-way; and out of a several Fen Ground of him the said *Robert Pierston*, lying in the Fen called *Edmund's* Seve- } 21 1 35  
rals, twelve Acres, two Roods and twenty-five Perches at the East End thereof, abutting upon the several Fen Ground of *Thomas Tyrell* aforesaid.

**Out**

Out of the several Fen Ground of *William Wragge*, lying near unto *Grainford*, nine Acres and three Roods and twenty-eight Perches at the East Side thereof.

9 3 20

Out of the several Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Peter Williams*, thirty-four Acres, two Roods and ten Perches; (*viz.*) one intire several Fen Ground lying within a several Fen Ground of *Robert Peyton* aforesaid, in *Norwood* Severals, containing seven Acres; and out of one other Ground of him the said *Peter Williams*, lying in the Fen called *Norwood* Severals aforesaid, abutting upon the old grove-way, twenty-three Acres, two Roods and ten Perches at the East Part thereof, abutting upon the last mentioned Ground of *Robert Peyton* aforesaid.

34 2 10

Out of the several Fen Ground of *John Mobbe*, abutting upon *Waldersey Bank*, ten Acres and three Roods at the North end thereof next the said Bank.

10 3 00

Out of the several Fen Grounds of or belonging to *John Person*, twenty-seven Acres and two Roods; (*viz.*) out of the several Fen Ground lying near

near unto Great Crofs, five Acres and two Roods at the North Part thereof; and out of one other feveral Fen Ground in the Occupation of him the faid *John Pierfon*, abutting upon Plant Water and the feveral Fen Ground of *Henry Finimore*, twenty-two Acres at the Weft Side thereof, next the Fen called Weft Fen.

**Out of** the feveral Fen Ground of *Thomas Shepheard*, Gent. abutting upon Plant Water and the laft mentioned feveral Ground of *Henry Finimore*, fifteen Acres at the Weft Side thereof next Weft Fen aforefaid.

**Out of** the feveral Fen Ground called Weft-fen Clofe, twenty-five Acres at the Eaft Part thereof next Weft Fen.

**Out of** the feveral Fen Ground called great *Bradney Moor*, abutting upon *Bifhop's* Dike and the River *Neane*, one hundred fixty-two Acres and two Roods at the North End thereof, abutting upon *Whitlefea* Dike.

**Out of** the feveral Fen Ground called *White's* Fen, one hundred and nineteen Acres and one Rood at the Weft Part thereof, abutting upon *Glaffe Lake* and *Browne's* Fen.

**Out**

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Out of the several Fen Ground in the Tenure or Occupation of *William Sames*, Doctor of the Law, called *Brown's* Fen or *Cooke's* Fen, fifty Acres and twenty Perches at the North-west Part thereof, abutting upon *Glasse Lake* aforesaid.

50 0 20

**Dodington  
Small  
Severals.**

Out of nineteen other small severals belonging to *Dodington*, *March* and *Benwick* aforesaid, fifty-three Acres, two Roods and thirty-two Perches, as the same already proportionally by Lock-its or small Trenches divided and set out from every of the said nineteen several Fen Grounds; that is to say) out of the Ground of *Widow Cattel*, lying near *Grain-ard*, one Acre at the South End thereof. Out of the Ground of — *Barret*, Gent. called *Mundford's* Lands, two Acres, one Rood and thirteen Perches at the South Side thereof; out of the Ground of *Thomas Wal-* *m*, called also *Mundford's* Lands, three Acres, two Roods and five Perches at the East Part thereof, next unto the Drove-way; out of the Ground of *Thomas Emerson*, one Acre, three Roods and fifteen Perches at the South Side thereof; out of the Ground of *John Neale*, two Acres, one Rood and twenty Perches



Perches at the North Part thereof; out of the Ground of *Widow Southwold*, adjoining unto *Norwood Causey*, five Acres and twenty Perches at the North Part thereof, abutting upon *Walderssea Bank*; out of the Ground of *William Shepheard*, lying in the several Fen called *Edmund's* Several, three Acres and twenty Perches at the South End thereof; out of the Ground late of — *Death*, Yeoman, lying in the Fen called *Joane Sadd's Hole*, two Acres, one Rood and six Perches at the East Part thereof; out of the Ground of *John Shere-man*, lying near *Burrough Moor*, six Acres, three Roods and fifteen Perches at the East End thereof; out of the Ground of *Everard Buckworth*, Esq; lying near *Nuses Green*, three Acres, one Rood and eight Perches at the West Side thereof; out of the Ground of *Thomas Southwold*, abutting upon *Norwood Green*, two Roods at the South Corner thereof; out of the several Ground of *Thomas Walsame*, lying near *Norwood Green* aforesaid, three Acres, three Roods and ten Perches at the East Side thereof; out of the Ground of *Reynold Walsame*, lying near *Norwood Green* aforesaid, two Acres, three

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three Roods and eight Perches at the West Part thereof, next unto the Common; out of the Ground called *Wisamouth*, four Acres, three Roods and thirty-eight Perches at the North-west End thereof, abutting upon the River *Neane*; out of a Ground near *Benwick* called *Pagdole*, two Acres, three Roods and twenty-four Perches at the North-west End thereof; out of the Ground of *William Smith* in Dike Moor, abutting upon *Beefeling's* Lode and the West Water, four Acres at the East End thereof; out of the Ground of *Samuel Wright*, Doctor of Divinity, lying in Dike Moor aforesaid, three Roods and ten Perches at the North-east End thereof; out of the Ground of Widow *Cole*, lying near *Benwick* Meer, one Acre at the North End thereof next West Water; and out of the Ground of *Robert Burroughs*, lying near *Benwick*, one Acre and twenty Perches at the North-east Side thereof, abutting upon the River *Neane*.

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Out of the common Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Witlesey*, in the said Isle of *Ely* and County of *Cambridge*, five thousand five hundred twenty-seven Acres; (that is to say) the

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*Witlesey*.

intire common Fen called North Fen, containing one thousand seventy-eight Acres, abutting Westward upon the Mow Fens of *Witlesey*, called *Northey*, Northward upon the several Fen Grounds called *Prior's Fens*, Eastward upon *Delfe Dike*, and Southward upon *Morton's Leam*; the intire common Fen, lying between the New Drain or Way extending from *Witlesey* to the hard Lands of *Upwood*, *Witlesey Dike*, and the new Cut or Drain called *Bevel's Leam*, containing two thousand seventy-eight Acres, abutting Westward upon the said new Drain or Way Northward upon *Witlesey Dike*, and South-eastward upon the said new Drain called *Bevel's Leam*; the intire common Fen called South Pingle, containing fifty-nine Acres, abutting Westward upon the hard Lands of *Lipney*, Northward upon the Causey leading unto *Eldernel* and the several Grounds of *Eldernel*, and Southward upon *Eastrea Lake* or South Lake; the intire common Fen called the Middle, containing seven hundred thirty-four Acres, abutting Westward upon the several Grounds of *Eldernel* and upon *Lords Dike*, Southward upon

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upon South Lake or *Sterne Ea*, Eastward upon the Dike extending from *Morton's Leam*, near Mid-fen Tree, unto South Lake or *Sterne Ea* aforefaid, and Northward upon *Morton's Leam* aforefaid; out of the common Fen Grounds lying near unto *Eastrea* called *Eastrea Fen* or the *Wipe*, nine hundred thirty and two Acres, abutting Westward upon *Beggars Dike*, Southward upon the new Drain called *Bevel's Leam*, Eastward upon the new Dike extending from West-fen Close unto South Lake or *Sterne Ea*, and Northward upon South Lake or *Sterne Ea* aforefaid; and out of the common Fen Ground called the *Moor*, six hundred forty-six Acres at the North-west Part thereof, abutting Westward upon *Sted's Dike*, and Northward upon the faid New Drain called *Bevel's Leam*.

Out of the feveral Fen Ground of or belonging to *Witlesey* aforefaid, called *Prior's Fens*, one hundred eighty-nine Acres, as the fame is already divided and inclofed from the Refidue of the faid Fens; (that is to fay) out of the Ground of *Richard Auldfeld*, fifty Acres at the South-east Part thereof; out

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**Witlesey  
Severals.**



of the Ground of Widow *Pen-  
nie*, two Acres, one Rood and  
twenty-eight Perches at the South  
Part thereof; out of the Grounds  
of *Henry Prat*, Gent. adjoining  
to the Grounds of *Richard Auld-  
field* afore said, called *Ashe Fen*,  
forty-seven Acres, three Roods  
and twenty Perches at the South-  
west End thereof, abutting upon  
North Fen; out of the Grounds  
of *John Elkin*, Gent. forty-four  
Acres, three Roods, and two  
Perches at the South-east Part of  
the same Grounds; out of the  
Ground of — *Danson*, Gent.  
three Acres, one Rood, and fif-  
teen Perches at the West End  
thereof; out of the Ground of  
— *Summer*, Gent. three Acres,  
one Rood and fifteen Perches at  
the East End thereof; out of the  
Ground of — *Armedsted*, Gent.  
eleven Acres, three Roods and  
thirty Perches at the West End  
thereof; out of one other Ground  
of the said *Henry Prat*, called  
*Cawcroft*, nineteen Acres, three  
Roods and thirty-five Perches at  
the South-west Corner thereof;  
and out of the Ground of —  
*Rose*, Gent. five Acres, one Rood  
and fifteen Perches at the South-  
east Corner thereof.

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**Out of the several Fen**  
 Grounds of or belonging to  
*Stanground* in the County of  
*Huntingdon*, called *Flegge Fen* and  
*White Fen Close*, lying in the  
 said Isle of *Ely* and County of  
*Cambridge*, one hundred twenty-  
 seven Acres, abutting Northward  
 upon *Morton's Leam*, and East-  
 ward and Southward upon the  
 several Grounds of *Witlesey*.

**Stang**  
**ground.**

127 0 0

**Out of the mowing Fen**  
 Ground belonging to *Stanground*  
 aforesaid, called *Northea*, lying  
 in the said Isle of *Ely* and Coun-  
 ty of *Cambridge*, sixty-four Acres,  
 as the same is already divided and  
 inclosed at the South-east Part of  
 the same Ground.

64 0 0

**Out of the demean Fen**  
 Grounds of or belonging to the  
 Lordship of *Thorney*, in the said  
 Isle of *Ely* and County of *Cam-*  
*bridge*, four thousand Acres, abut-  
 ting Eastward upon the common  
 Fen of *Wisbich* called High Fen,  
 and the common Fen Grounds  
 of *Sutton in Holland*, Southward  
 upon the Fen Grounds of *Wi-*  
*tlesey*, called *Bassen-Hall Moor*,  
 and Northward upon the South  
*Ea Bank*.

**Thorney.**

4000 0 0

**Sutton in  
Holland.**

**Out of the common Fen**

Grounds of or belonging to *Sutton in Holland*, in the County of *Lincoln*, lying in the said Isle of *Ely* and County of *Cambridge*, four hundred and forty Acres, abutting Eastward upon the common Fen of *Wisbich*, Southward upon the Lake called the *Wride*, and Westward upon the Fen Ground of *Thorney* called *Knarre Fen*.

440 0 0

**Wisbich.**

**Out of the common Fen**

Grounds of or belonging to *Wisbich*, in the said Isle of *Ely* and County of *Cambridge*, two thousand six hundred forty-eight Acres; (that is to say) one intire Fen Ground, lying near *Guy Hurne*, between *Morton's* Leam, the new Drain called *Bevel's* Leam, *Sterne Ea* or South Lake, and the common Fens in *Witlesea* called the Middle, containing four hundred ninety-one Acres and two Roods; one other intire Fen Ground, lying between *Morton's* Leam aforesaid, the Fen Grounds of *Witlesea* called *Bassen-Hall Moor*, and the Drain called the Five-and-twenty Foot Drain, containing four hundred twenty-four Acres and two Roods; and one other intire Fen

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Fen Ground, containing one thousand seven hundred thirty-two Acres, lying between the said Five-and-twenty Foot Drain, *Knarre* Lake, and the Drain or Way leading from *Pekirke* Meadow unto *Guy* Hurne.

2648 0 0

Out of the several Fen Ground belonging to *Wisbich* aforesaid, called *Throcken* Holt, fourscore Acres at the West End of the same Ground abutting Northward upon South *Ea* Bank.

80 0 0

Out of the common Fen Ground of or belonging to *Elme*, in the said Isle of *Ely* and County of *Cambridge*, lying between *Coldham* Bank and *Elme* Leam, fifty Acres at the South-west Part thereof, abutting upon *Elme* Leam and a several Fen Ground of *Robert Peyton*, Esq; called great Sedge Fen.

*Elme*

50 0 0

Out of the several Fen Ground in *Elme* aforesaid, belonging unto the Bishop of *Ely*, lying between *Elme* Leam and the old *Ea*, thirty Acres, abutting upon the South-east End of the common Fen Ground of *Elme* aforesaid and the said several Ground of *Robert Peyton* aforesaid.

30 0 0



**Out of the several Fen**  
Ground of *Robert Peyton* afore-  
said, called great Sedge Fen, ad-  
joining unto *Elme* Common afore-  
said, one hundred and Seventy  
Acres, abutting upon *Coldham*  
Bank, the said Ground of the  
Lord Bishop of *Ely*, and the said  
common Fen of *Elme*.

170 0 0

**Ladus Fen.** **Out of the common Fen**  
Ground called *Ladus* Fen, and  
Lake Fen, lying within the Hun-  
dred of *Wisbich*, in the said Isle  
of *Ely* and County of *Cam-*  
*bridge*, six hundred and fourscore  
Acres at the South-west End  
thereof, abutting upon Part of  
the common Fen of *Dodington*  
and *March*, called *Creek* Fen,  
lying between *Elme* Leam and  
the River *Neane*.

680 0 0

**Eausy**  
**Moor.**

**Out of the common Fen**  
Ground called *Eausy* Moor, ly-  
ing within the said Hundred of  
*Wisbich*, in the said Isle of *Ely*  
and County of *Cambridge*, bound-  
ed with the River *Neane*, *Well-*  
*ney* River, *Darcie* Lode, and the  
Lake called the Old Chair, one  
thousand nine hundred sixty-four  
Acres at the North-west Part  
thereof, abutting upon the said  
Lake called the Old Chair, the  
River *Neane*, and the Dike  
called the New Dike.

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Out of the Common Fen  
Ground called *Tuck's-Moor*  
Hurne, or *Well Pingle*, lying  
within the said Isle of *Ely* and  
County of *Cambridge*, between  
the said Lake called the Old  
Chair and *Read's Fen* in *March*,  
thirty-six Acres, abutting upon  
the Old Chair aforesaid and upon  
the River *Neane*.

36 0 0

Out of the common Fen  
Grounds of or belonging to  
*Upwell*, *Outwell* and *Wellney*, in  
the County of *Norfolk*, and in  
the said Isle of *Ely* and County  
of *Cambridge*, or some or one  
of them, one thousand five hun-  
dred and forty Acres; (that is to  
say) out of the common Fen  
Ground called *Neat Moor*, and  
the Lots, seven hundred and  
fifty Acres at the East End of  
the same Ground next unto *Well*  
Creek, abutting Southward upon  
the Fens called *Londoners Fens*,  
Northward upon *London Lode*,  
the Fen Ground in the Occupa-  
tion of *Tristram Diamond*,  
Gent. and the common Fen  
called *Outwell Pingle*; out of the  
common Fen Grounds called  
*Shevens*, two hundred Acres at  
the East Side thereof, abutting  
upon *Causley Dike* and *Hacket*  
Way; out of the common Fen  
Grounds

*Upwell;*  
*Outwell*  
and *Well-*  
*ney.*

Grounds called Common Piece and *Hale* Fen, five hundred and ninety Acres; (*viz.*) the said intire Fen called the Common Piece; and the Residue, being four hundred fifty-six Acres, out of the said common Fen called *Hale* Fen, at the North-east Part thereof, abutting upon *Bedford* River and the several Ground belonging unto *Wellney* Chappel, called *Sedge* Fen.

Out of the several Fen Grounds called *Londoners* Fens, being late Parcel of the common Fens of *Upwell* and *Wellney* afore-said, eight hundred Acres, as the same is already set out, and by Lockspits or small Trenches severed and divided from the Residue of the said Fens, in Manner and Form following; (that is to say) one intire Fen Ground belonging to Sir *Robert Bell*, Knight, called *Lilly-pools*, containing five Acres; one other intire fen Ground belonging to the said Sir *Robert Bell*, lying between *Lilly-pools* afore-said, the Fen Ground called *Cade's* Fen, the several Fen Grounds belonging to *Wellney* Chapel called *Knobbals*, and the several Fen Ground of *Thomas Fincham*, Gent. containing eighty-eight Acres

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Acres and three Roods; out of one other Ground of him the said Sir *Robert Bell*, lying between *Cady's Fen* and *London Lode* aforesaid, forty-two Acres and three Roods at the West End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of Sir *Lewis Tresham*, Knight, lying between *Cady's Fen* and *Wick Fen*, ninety-three Acres and one Rood at the South End thereof, abutting upon the several Fen Ground late of — *Fincham*, Gent. in the Occupation of him the said Sir *Lewis Tresham*; out of the several Fen Ground late in the Tenure or Occupation of Sir *William Cokayne*, Knight, adjoining unto *Cady's Fen* aforesaid, and the several Grounds now or late of Sir *John Wats*, Knight, one hundred seventy-one Acres at the South Part thereof, abutting upon the Ground of *Thomas Parlet*; out of the several Grounds now or late of Sir *John Wats*, Knight, three hundred fifty-two Acres and one Rood, abutting upon *Maid Lode*, the forementioned Ground late of Sir *William Cokayne*, and the Drove-way leading through the Middle of the said Grounds of him the said Sir *John Wats*; out of the several



several Fen Ground of *Thomas Fincham*, Gent. lying between *Cady's Fen* and *Wick Fen*, eleven Acres and three Roods, abutting on both Sides of *Bedford River*; out of the several Fen Ground late of — *Fincham*, Gent. now in the Occupation of the said Sir *Lewis Tresham*, thirteen Acres and one Rood at the West Side thereof, abutting upon *Cady's Fen*; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *Hamman le Strange*, Esq; abutting upon *Cady's Fen* and *Maid Lode*, twelve Acres at the East Side thereof next *Bedford River*; and out of the several Fen Ground called *Hen Middle*, abutting upon *Maid Lode*, on the North Side of *Bedford River*, ten Acres, adjoining to the Fen Grounds now or late of Sir *John Wats* aforesaid, and upon the several Grounds of *Thomas Parlet*, Yeoman.

Out of the several Fen Grounds belonging to the Chapel of *Wellney*, one hundred seventy-eight Acres, as the same is already set out, and by Lockspits or small Trenches severed and divided from the Residue of the said Fens, in Manner and Form following; (that is to say)

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out of the Fen Ground called *Knobbals*, twenty-eight Acres; (*viz.*) one intire Piece thereof, lying on the North Side of *Bedford* River, containing nine Acres; out of the Ground late in the Occupation of *Edward Lechland*, Esq; or his Assigns, lying on the South Side of *Bedford* River, ten Acres, abutting upon the said River; and out of the Residue of the said Ground called *Knobbals*, nine Acres at the East End thereof, abutting upon *Wick* Fen and *Read's* Fen; out of the several Fen Ground called *Sedge* Fen, one hundred and fifty Acres; (*viz.*) one intire Piece thereof lying on the North Side of *Bedford* River, containing eleven Acres; and out of the Residue of the said Fen one hundred thirty-nine Acres at the South-west Part thereof, abutting upon *Hale* Fen and *Bedford* River aforesaid.

Out of the several Fen Grounds belonging to *Outwell* aforesaid, lying between *Popham* Eau and New Dike, sixty-five Acres, as the same is already proportionally set out, and by Lockspits or small Trenches severed and divided from every of the

the said three several Fen  
 Grounds, in Manner and Form  
 following; (that is to say) out of  
 the several Fen Ground be-  
 longing to the Dean and Chapter  
 of *Norwich*, thirty-five Acres at  
 the East End thereof, abutting  
 upon *Neat-Moore* and *Popbam*  
*Eau* afore said; out of the Grounds  
 of *Tristram Diamond*, Gent.  
 twenty-five Acres at the South-  
 east Part thereof, abutting upon  
*Neat-Moore* afore said; and out  
 of the Ground of *Sinolphus Bell*,  
 Esq; five Acres at the East End  
 thereof, abutting upon the said  
 Grounds of the said *Tristram Di-*  
*amond*, Gent.

**Out of** three several Fen  
 Grounds lying in *Ladus* Fen,  
 fifty-two Acres and two Roods,  
 as the same is already proportio-  
 nally set out, and by Lockspits  
 or small Trenches severed and  
 divided from every of the said  
 three Fen Grounds, in Manner  
 and Form following; (that is to  
 say) out of the Ground called  
*Langbeech*, on the South-west  
 Side of Bishops Dike, seven  
 Acres and two Roods at the East  
 End thereof; out of the Ground  
 called *Marmond*, twenty-seven  
 Acres and one Rood at the  
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South Part thereof; and out of the Ground now or late of Sir *William Reade*, Knight, lying near *Newe's Cote*, seventeen Acres and three Roods at the North End thereof.

52 2 0

Out of the several Fen Ground called *Farmers Fen*, forty-eight Acres at the East Side thereof, abutting upon the common Fen called *Eausie Moor*.

48 0 0

Out of the several Fen Ground called *Loveokes*, twenty-one Acres at the North End thereof, abutting upon the Fen called the Common Piece.

21 0 0

Out of nineteen several Fen Grounds, belonging to *Upwell* and *Wellney* aforefaid, or to one of them, lying on the West Side of *Wellney River*, between *Popham's Eau* and *Darcie Lode*, two hundred fifty-two Acres and thirteen Perches, as the same is already proportionally set out, and by Lockspits or small Trenches severed and divided from every of the said nineteen several Fen Grounds, in Manner and Form following; (that is to say) out of the imbanked several Fen Ground of *John Moyse*, Gent. one hundred and five Acres and thirty-six Perches at the



the South-west Part thereof, abutting upon *Eausie Moor*; out of the imbanked Ground now or late of — *Taylor*, Gent. forty-six Acres, two Roods and twenty Perches at the South Part thereof; out of the Ground now or late of *William Bellamy*, two Acres and two Roods at the South Part thereof; out of the next adjoining Ground now or late of *John Bellamy*, two Acres, one Rood and twenty Perches at the West Part thereof; out of the Ground now or late of — *Fiske*, Gent. called *Rollingham*, fifteen Acres, two Roods and twenty-two Perches at the West Part thereof; out of the Ground now or late of — *Calverley*, Doctor of Divinity, eight Acres, three Roods and ten Perches at the South Corner thereof; out of the Ground called Town Land, abutting upon the severall Ground of *William Drue*, one Acre and thirty-four Perches at the North End thereof; out of the said Ground of *William Drue*, two Acres and two Roods at the North End thereof; one intire Fen Ground of *John Dixon*, Gent. abutting upon *Magg's Lake*, containing six Acres, two Roods

Roods and thirty-six Perches; out of the Ground now or late of *Edmund Man*, abutting upon *Magg's Lake* aforesaid, one Acre and twenty Perches at the North-west Corner thereof; one intire Ground now or late of *Thomas Blithe*, adjoining to the said Ground of *Edmund Man*, containing five Acres, three Roods and thirty-six Perches; one other intire Fen Ground now or late of *John Bellamy* and *Matthew Bellamy*, abutting upon *Friday Lake*, containing four Acres and two Roods; one other intire Fen Ground now or late of *William Reade* aforesaid, abutting also upon *Friday Lake*, containing seven Acres and ten Perches; out of the next adjoining Ground now or late of *Haman le Strange*, Esq; nine Acres, one Rood and twenty-two Perches at the East Part thereof; one intire Fen Ground now or late of *Thomas Fincham*, adjoining to the last mentioned Ground of *Haman le Strange* aforesaid, containing thirteen Acres and two Roods; out of the next adjoining Ground now or late of *Roger Prat*, Esq; seven Acres and two Roods at the South Part thereof; out of the Ground now or late of *John Gray*,

*Gray*, one Acre, two Roods and twenty-five Perches at the North Part thereof; out of the Ground now or late of — *Reve*, Clerk, three Roods and twelve Perches at the South-west Part thereof; and out of the Ground of *Thomas Crosse*, abutting upon the North Side of *Darcie Lode*, eight Acres, three Roods and thirty Perches at the West End thereof.

**Out of** fifteen other several Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Upwell* and *Wellney*, lying also on the West Side of *Wellney River* aforesaid, between *Darcie Lode* aforesaid and the several Grounds of *Little-port*, lying upon the same River, seventy-three Acres, one Rood and twenty Perches, as the same is already proportionally set out, and by Lockspits or small Trenches severed and divided from every of the said fifteen several Fen Grounds, in Manner and Form following; (that is to say) out of the Ground of *Thomas Crosse*, abutting upon the South Side of *Darcie Lode*, eleven Acres, three Roods and ten Perches at the West End thereof; out of the next adjoining Ground of *Robert Webster*, two Acres, one Rood and twenty-eight

eight Perches at the South Corner thereof; out of the several Fen Ground called *Lewis Meadow*, seven Acres and twelve Perches at the South-west End thereof; out of the next adjoining Ground now or late of *Simon Hudson*, eight Acres, three Roods and thirty-eight Perches at the South Part thereof; out of the next adjoining Ground now or late of *John Stanbridge*, five Acres, one Rood and thirty Perches at the East Side thereof; out of the next adjoining Ground now or late of *Robert Goulden*, three Acres, one Rood and eighteen Perches at the East Corner thereof; out of the Ground of *Everard Buckworth*, Esq; eight Acres at the West Part thereof; out of the next adjoining Ground late of *William Bond*, one Acre, three Roods and ten Perches at the South Corner thereof; out of the next adjoining Ground, now or late of *Thomas Birt*, four Acres, two Roods and six Perches at the West Corner thereof; out of the Ground now or late of *Edward Bond*, one Acre, two Roods and ten Perches at the South-west End thereof; out of the next adjoining Ground now or late of *Francis Waters*, Gent.



five Acres, one Rood and eighteen Perches at the South-west Part thereof; out of the Ground now or late of *Richard James*, lying near *Wellney*, two Acres, three Roods and thirty-two Perches at the North-west Corner thereof; out of the Ground now or late of *William Gabie* and *John Gabie*, lying on the South Side of *Bedford River*, one Acre and two Roods at the West End thereof; out of the Ground belonging to the Deanary of *Peterborough*, abutting upon *Marmond Meadow*, three Acres, two Roods and eight Perches at the West Part thereof; and out of the said Ground called *Marmond Meadow*, five Acres at the North-west Part thereof.

Out of twenty-three several Fen Grounds belonging to *Upwell* and *Wellney* aforesaid, or to the one of them, lying on the East Side of *Wellney River*, between *Popham's Eau* and the several Fen Grounds belonging to *Little-port*, one hundred and fifty Acres and seven Perches, as the same is already proportionally set out, and by Lockspits or small Trenches severed and divided from every of the said twenty three several Fen Grounds,

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in Manner and Form following;  
 (that is to say) out of the Ground  
 now or late of Sir *John Wats*,  
 Knight, lying near *Popbam Eau*  
 aforesaid, ten Acres, one Rood  
 and twenty-six Perches at the  
 East Part thereof; out of the  
 Ground of *Henry Goldwell*, ad-  
 joining unto the common Fen  
 called *Sheuens*, extending unto  
 the said River of *Wellney*, one  
 Acre and twelve Perches at the  
 East Corner thereof; out of the  
 Ground now or late of Sir *Robert*  
*Bell*, Knight, abutting upon  
*Wellney* River and the Ground  
 belonging to the Dean and Chap-  
 ter of *Norwich*, eight Acres and  
 one Rood and thirty Perches at  
 the North-east Part thereof; out  
 of the Ground now or late of  
*William Drue*, abutting also up-  
 on the said Ground of the Dean  
 and Chapter of *Norwich*, four-  
 teen Acres, one Rood and twenty  
 Perches at the East End thereof;  
 out of the Ground of *Haman le*  
*Strange*, Esq; called *Great Greenes*,  
 twenty-six Acres, three Roods  
 and ten Perches at the South  
 Part thereof; out of the next  
 adjoining Ground now or late of  
*John Bellamy* and *Matthew Bel-*  
*lamy*, four Acres, three Roods  
 and thirty-eight Perches at the

East End thereof; out of the next adjoining Ground of *John Goddard*, one Acre and two Roods at the North Side thereof; out of the Ground now or late of *William Gabie*, three Acres, three Roods and ten Perches at the North-east Part thereof; out of the next adjoining Ground, now or late of *Tristram Diamond*, Gent. three Acres, one Rood, and thirty Perches at the East Corner thereof; out of the Ground now or late of *Edmund Man*, adjoining unto the Ground now or late of *John Dixon*, two Acres, two Roods and twenty-eight Perches at the South-east Corner thereof; one intire Fen Ground now or late of *John Dixon* aforesaid, bounded with the common Fen called *Sheuens* and the River of *Wellney*, containing seven Acres and two Roods; out of one other Ground now or late of him the said *John Dixon*, abutting upon the aforesaid Ground of *Edmund Man*, eight Acres and two Roods at the North Side thereof; out of the Ground now or late of *William Parlet*, Gent. abutting upon the Ground of the Dean and Chapter of *Norwich*, lying near  
*Darcie*

*Darcie Lode*, four Acres, two Roods and ten Perches at the South Side thereof; one intire several Fen Ground belonging to the Dean and Chapter of *Norwich*, lying near *Darcie Lode* aforesaid, containing thirteen Acres and thirty Perches; out of the Ground now or late of *John Bloome*, abutting upon the Ground of *John Marshall*, Gent. two Acres, three Roods and thirty-three Perches at the South-east Side thereof; out of the said Ground now or late of *John Marshall* aforesaid, ten Acres, three Roods and ten Perches at the North End thereof; out of the Ground now or late of *Thomas Crosse*, abutting upon Causey Dike, four Acres, two Roods, and ten Perches at the West End thereof; out of the Ground now or late of Sir *William Reade* aforesaid, abutting upon Causey Dike near *Wellney*, three Roods and ten Perches at the North End thereof; out of the Ground now or late of Sir *John Wats*, Knight, abutting upon Maid Lode, three Acres at the East Part thereof; out of the Ground now or late of *John Stanbridge*, lying near *Wellney*, one Acre at the East Part thereof; out of the Ground now or late of *James Ravens*,



one Acre at the North-east Part thereof, abutting upon *Bedford River*; out of the Ground now or late of *Francis Waters*, lying on the South Side of *Bedford River*, abutting upon *Hale Fen* and *Wellney River*, eleven Acres and two Roods at the South-east End thereof; and out of the Ground now or late of *Richard Ward*, lying near *Pralls*, were three Acres and twenty Perches at the North Side thereof.

150 0 0

## COM. HUNTINGDON.

Somersham.

OUT of the common Fen Grounds of or belonging to the Soake of *Somersham*, in the said County of *Huntingdon*, one thousand six hundred and five Acres; (*viz.*) out of the common Fen called *Erith Fen*, two Acres adjoining to *Bedford River*, on the South Side of the same River near to *Erith Sluce*; out of the Mow Fen called *Croll Lode*, seventy Acres at the West Part thereof, abutting upon *High Fen*; and out of the said Common

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mon Fens called High Fen and North Fen, one thousand five hundred thirty-three Acres, abutting upon the said Fen called *Croll Lode*, and adjoining Southward upon the low Fen of *Somersham* and the hard Lands, and Northward upon the common Fens of *Warbois* and *Fenton Lode*.

Out of a several Fen Ground in *Somersham* called *Rowey*, eleven Acres at the North Part thereof.

Out of the common Fen Grounds of *Warbois* or *Ramsay*, in the County of *Huntingdon*, lying between the West Water from *St. Bennet's Cross* unto *Fenton Lode*, and along the said Lode unto the hard Lands of *Warbois*, and by a straight Line extended from *Wistowe Stone* in the Fen unto *St. Bennet's Cross* aforesaid, one thousand eight Hundred sixty eight Acres at the North-west Part of the same Ground, on both Sides of the new Drain, extending from the hard Lands of *Warbois* unto the West Water, abutting upon the said West Water, the Commons of *Ramsay* called *East-moor* and the common Fen called *Wistowe Fen*.

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Warbois.

1868 0 0

**Wistowe.** Out of the common Fen

Grounds called *Wistowe* Fen, in the said County of *Huntingdon*, belonging to *Ramsey*, *Wistowe* and *Berry*, or to some or one of them, and bounded with the said common Fens of *Warbois* or *Ramsey*, the hard Lands of *Wistowe* and *Berry*, the Mow Fen of *Berry*, and the Lake called *Sallaries* Raft, three hundred eighty-six Acres at the North-east Part of the said Fen, abutting upon the said common Fen of *Warbois* or *Ramsey*, and the said Lake called *Sallaries* Raft.

386 0 0

**Berry.**

Out of the common Fen Ground belonging to *Berry* in the said County of *Huntingdon*, called *Berry* Mow Fen, forty-five Acres at the South Part of the said Fen.

45 0 0

**Ramsey.**

Out of the common Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Warbois* or *Ramsey*, in the said County of *Huntingdon*, or to one of them, called *East-moor*, bounded with the said Lake called *Sallaries* Raft, the forementioned Line extended from *Wistowe* Stone in the Fen unto *St. Benner's* Cross, the common Fens of *Dodington* and *Benwick*, called *Pukver* Fen and *Turfe* Fen, *Ramsey* Meer, and the inclosed Grounds of Sir  
Oliver

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*Oliver Cromwel*, Knight of the Honourable Order of the *Bath*, one thousand four hundred ninety and six Acres; out of the South-east Part of the said Fen, on both Sides of the said new Drain, extending from the hard Lands of *Warbois* unto the West Water, and adjoining upon *Pulver Fen* and *Sallaries Raft* aforesaid. } 1496 0 0

Dut of one other common Fen Ground of *Ramsay* aforesaid, called *Middle Moor*, one thousand eight hundred seventy and five Acres, abutting Westward upon the new Drain or Way leading from the hard Lands of *Upwood* unto *Witlesey*, Southward upon the River *Neane*, and North-eastward upon *Delfe Dike* and the several Grounds called the *Steds*. } 1875 0 0

Dut of one other Fen Ground of or belonging to *Ramsay*, *Upwood* and *Raveley*, or to some or one of them, lying near unto *Raveley*, in the said County of *Huntingdon*, two hundred twenty-nine Acres, abutting upon the hard Lands of *Raveley*, near unto a Place called *Raveley's Nook*, and upon the Fen Grounds claimed as Parcel of the Manor of *Wood-walton*. } 229 0 0

Dut



**Out of** one other common Fen Ground of or belonging unto *Ramsay* or *Upwood*, in the said County of *Huntingdon*, or to one of them, lying between the hard Lands of *Upwood* and the River *Neane*, eight hundred fifty-six Acres, abutting Westward upon the Drain or Way leading from the hard Lands of *Upwood* unto *Witlesey* aforesaid, Northward upon the River *Neane*, and Eastward and Southward upon *Bill Lode* and the hard Lands of *Upwood* aforesaid.

856 0 0

**Out of** one other common Fen Ground of or belonging to *Ramsay* aforesaid, lying between *Ramsay Meer* and *Delfe Dike*, one hundred and eight Acres, abutting upon *Delfe Dike* and the River *Neane*.

108 0 0

**Out of** the several Fen Grounds of Sir *Oliver Cromwel*, Knight of the Honourable Order of the *Bath*, lying and situate in *Ramsay* aforesaid, called *Abbots Pingle*, *Wigin Moor*, *Ramsay Park* and *Asbeck*, one hundred seventy-seven Acres; (*viz.*) the said intire Fen Ground called *Abbots Pingle*, containing four-score Acres; the said intire Fen Ground called *Asbeck*, contain-

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ing seventy-six Acres; and the  
 Residue, being twenty-one Acres,  
 out of the said Fen Ground  
 called *Wigin Moor*, at the  
 South-east Part thereof abutting  
 upon *Abbots Pingle* aforesaid. 177 0 0

Out of the other several Fen  
 Grounds of or belonging to *Ram-*  
*sey* aforesaid, in the said Coun-  
 ty of *Huntingdon*, one hundred  
 fifty-five Acres; (that is to say)  
 out of the Fen Ground called  
*Upper Steds*, five Acres, two  
 Roods and twenty Perches at  
 the North-east End thereof;  
 out of the several Fen Grounds  
 called *Nether Steds*, eighteen  
 Acres and one Rood at the  
 North-west End thereof; out of  
 the several Fen Ground now or  
 late of — *Beale*, Gent, lying  
 near *Willesey Meer*, three Acres,  
 one Rood and ten Perches at the  
 North-east Part of the same  
 Ground; out of the several Fen  
 Grounds of *Thomas Cromwel*,  
 Gent. called *Dantree* and *Bag-*  
*dole*, thirty-three Acres, one  
 Rood and ten Perches at the  
 North-east End of the said  
 Ground called *Bagdole*; out of  
 the several Fen Ground of —  
*Houfen*, called also *Bagdole*, twelve  
 Acres and two Roods at the  
 South-west Part thereof, abut-  
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Several of  
*Ramsay*.

ting upon *Witlesey Meer*; out of a several Fen Ground belonging to Sir *Oliver Cromwel* aforelaid, lying on the South Side of *Ugg Meer*, six Acres at the South-west Part of the same Ground; out of the several Fen Grounds called *Beaupre Closes*, eight Acres and one Rood, abutting upon *Delfe Dike* and the River *Neane*; out of the several Fen Grounds called *Great Hilkes*, twenty-eight Acres and one Rood at the East Part thereof, abutting upon *Ramsley Meer* and the River *Neane*; out of the several Fen Grounds called *Little Hilkes*, two Acres and two Roods at the Part thereof, next unto the Mouth of *Ramsley Meer*; out of the several Fen Ground called *Pollins*, two Acres and two Roods at the East Part thereof; out of the greater Close called *Bear's Arse*, lying near *Hilkes*, on the North Side of the River *Neane*, two Acres, three Roods and ten Perches at the North-east End of the said Ground; out of the lesser Ground, called also *Bear's Arse*, one Acre and twenty Perches at the South-west Side thereof; out of the several Fen Grounds adjoining upon the hard lands of *Wistowe* or *Warbois*,

*bois*, called *Vicars Closes*, six  
 Acres and ten Perches at the  
 West Part of the said Closes;  
 out of the several Fen Ground  
 now or late of *Anne Netleton*,  
 lying near *Ramsay Town*, one  
 Acre at the South Part thereof;  
 out of the several Fen Ground  
 now or late of *Thomas Cock*, one  
 Acre and three Roods at the  
 North End thereof; out of the  
 several Fen Ground of —  
*Crockston*, one Acre and one  
 Rood at the North End thereof;  
 out of the several Fen Ground  
 now or late of *John Bateman*,  
 two Acres and twenty-eight  
 Perches at the North End of the  
 same Ground; out of the several  
 Fen Ground now or late of  
*John Lavender*, one Acre, one  
 Rood and four Perches at the  
 North Part thereof; out of the  
 several Fen Ground now or late  
 of *John Leeders*, one Acre, two  
 Roods and four Perches at the  
 North Part thereof; out of the  
 several Fen Ground of *Thomas  
 Williamson*, two Acres, two  
 Roods and twenty-eight Perches  
 at the North End thereof; out  
 of the several Fen Grounds of  
*Widow Holmes*, two Acres, two  
 Roods and sixteen Perches at the  
 South End of the greater Ground  
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belonging unto her, abutting upon the Lode; out of the several Fen Ground of *Thomas Barnes*, two Acres and ten Perches at the East Part thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *John Knight*, three Acres, three Roods and thirty Perches at the West Part thereof, abutting upon the Ground of *William Cakebread*; out of the several Fen Ground of *Richard Allen*, lying near *High Northey*, two Roods at the North Side thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *Robert Booth*, two Roods at the South Side thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *Thomas Howson*, one Acre at the North End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of — *Farmer*, Gent, three Roods at the East Side thereof; and out of the several Fen Ground, lying on the East Part of *Stoking Fen*, in the Occupation of *Ralph Allen*, one Acre and two Roods on the North Side of the same Ground.

**Wood-  
Walton.**

**Out of** the common Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Wood-walton* in the said County of *Huntingdon*, nine hundred thirty-seven Acres; (that is to say) three hundred ninety-three Acres out of the North End of the

the same Ground, abutting upon  
the several Fen Grounds of *Hig-*  
*ie* Farm and *Brick Meer*, claim-  
ed by *John Marshall*, Gent. and  
the Residue, being five hundred  
forty and four Acres, out of the  
North Part of the said Fen,  
abutting upon *Ugg Meer* and the  
common Fen Grounds of *Ram-*  
*by* and *Upwood*, late in the Pos-  
session of and claimed by —  
*Laurence*, Gent.

937 o o

Out of the two several Fen  
Grounds of the said *John Mar-*  
*shall*, lying in *Wood-walton* afore-  
said, next unto the Fen and hard  
Lands of *Sautrey*, thirty-six Acres  
at the North End of the said  
Grounds, abutting upon *Sautrey*  
Fen and the hard Lands of *Hig-*  
*ie* Farm.

36 o o

Out of the one other Fen  
Ground in *Wood-walton* afore-  
said, lying between the hard  
Lands of *Wood-walton* and *Hig-*  
*ie* Fen, and the said Fen of  
*Wood-walton*, claimed as Several  
by the said *John Marshall*, fif-  
teen Acres, abutting upon the  
hard Lands of *Wood-walton*, at  
the South-east Part of the said  
Ground.

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**Hignie.**

**Out of the several Fen**

Grounds of or belonging to *Hignie Farm* in the said County of *Huntingdon*, one hundred Acres at the North End of the said Grounds, abutting upon the several Fen Grounds of *Conington*, and upon the common Fen Grounds of *Holme and Woodwalton* aforesaid.

100 0 0

**Sautrey.**

**Out of the common Fen** Grounds of or belonging to *Sautrey*, in the said County of *Huntingdon*, two hundred and six Acres at the South-east Part of the same Fen, abutting upon the several Fen Grounds of *Sautrey* and *Woodwalton* aforesaid, and upon the hard Lands of *Sautrey*.

206 0 0

**Out of two several Fen** Grounds in *Sautrey* aforesaid, lying near unto *Woodwalton* aforesaid, nineteen Acres at the North-east Part of the greater of the said several Fen Grounds, abutting Eastward upon the several Fen Grounds of *John Marshall* aforesaid.

19 0 0

**Conington.**

**Out of the several Fen** Grounds of *Conington* in the said County of *Huntingdon*, two hundred eighty and one Acres, abutting Southward upon the common

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mon Fen Grounds of *Sautrey* aforefaid, Eastward upon the Fen Grounds of *Higney* Farm, and Northward upon the common Fen called *Holme* Fen.

281 0 0

Out of the common Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Holme* and *Glatton*, in the faid County of *Huntingdon*, one thousand and twelve Acres, abutting Eastward upon the River *Neane* and *Ugg* Meer, Southward upon *Brick* Meer and the faid feveral Fen Grounds of *Hignie* Farm and *Conington*, and Westward upon the hard Lands.

*Holme and Glatton.*

1012 0 0

Out of the common Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Denton* in the faid County of *Huntingdon*, one hundred fifty-fix Acres at the South-east Part of the faid Fen, abutting upon *Holme* Lode and the hard Lands of *Holme*.

*Denton.*

156 0 0

Out of the feveral Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Caldecott*, in the faid County of *Huntingdon*, fifty-fix Acres; (that is to fay) out of the *Mosse* Fen, belonging to the Right Honourable *Edward* Lord *Montacute*, eighteen Acres at the South-west Part of the fame Ground, abutting upon the Ground called the *Turfe* Lots; out of the

*Caldecott.*



said Ground called the *Turfe*  
 Lots, four Acres, three Roods  
 and twenty Perches at the North  
 End of the same Ground abut-  
 ting upon *Caldecott* Dike; out  
 of the Ground called the *Mow-*  
*ing* Lots, eight Acres and three  
 Roods at the West End of the  
 same Ground; out of one other  
 several Fen Ground of the said  
 Lord *Montacute*, fourteen Acres,  
 one Rood and three Perches,  
 abutting upon Part of the afore-  
 said *Mowing* Lots and upon *Den-*  
*ton* Fen; out of three several  
 Fen Grounds now or late in the  
 Occupation of *Thomas Hall*, three  
 Acres, three Roods and twenty-  
 five Perches at the North Part of  
 the same Grounds; out of five  
 several Fen Grounds, in the Te-  
 nure or Occupation of Sir *Tho-*  
*mas Cotton*, Baronet, — *Wil-*  
*liamson*, Gent. — *Fuller*, Gent.  
*Thomas Hall* aforesaid, and *Wil-*  
*liam Ashton*, lying between the  
 aforesaid Fen Ground of the  
 said Lord *Montacute*, *Denton*  
 Fen, and the Drove-way leading  
 to the same Grounds, four Acres  
 at the West Ends of the said five  
 several Grounds; out of five  
 other several Fen Grounds of or  
 belonging unto the said Sir *Tho-*  
*mas Cotton*, the said — *Wil-*  
*liamson*,

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*liamson*, Gent. the said —  
*Fuller*, Gent. the said *Thomas*  
*Hall* and *William Ashton*, lying  
between the aforementioned  
Drove-way and the hard Lands,  
two Acres and two Perches at  
the East Part of the same  
Ground.

56 0 0

*Stilton.*

Out of the common Fen  
Grounds of or belonging to *Stil-*  
*ton*, in the said County of *Hun-*  
*tingdon*, one hundred and sixty  
Acres, abutting upon *Caldecott*  
Dike, the *Turfe* Fen of *Stilton*,  
and the common and several Fens  
of *Taxley*.

160 0 0

Out of the common Fen  
Grounds of or belonging to *Tax-*  
*ley*, in the said County of *Hun-*  
*tingdon*, six hundred thirty and  
two Acres at the North-east Part  
of the same Fens, abutting upon  
*Pigge-water*, *Witlesey* Meer and  
*Trundle* Meer.

*Taxley.*

632 0 0

Out of the several Fen  
Grounds of *Taxley* aforesaid,  
twenty-nine Acres; (that is to  
say) out of the Mow Fen, called  
Western Meadow, eight Acres  
and two Roods at the North-east  
Side of the same Ground, abut-  
ting upon the River *Neane*; out  
of a Holt belonging to *Thomas*  
*Gentill*, lying near the Town of  
*Taxley*, three Roods and five

Q3

Perches

Perches at the South End of the said Holt; out of a Holt belonging to *John Isopp*, one Rood and five Perches at the South End of the same Holt; out of the Holt belonging to Widow *Pierſon*, one Rood at the South End of the ſaid Holt; out of the Holt belonging to *Pinchbeck Pierſon*, one Rood and twenty Perches at the South End of the ſame Holt; out of the ſeveral Fen Ground of *Bartholomew Brown*, abutting upon *Witleſey Meer*, one Acre and one Rood, at the Part of the ſaid Ground next *Trundle Meer*; out of the ſeveral Fen Ground of *Thomas Wats*, lying near *Taxley Town*, five Perches at the South-weſt Part of the ſame Ground; out of the ſeveral Fen Ground of *Emmanuel Probie*, Gent. lying near *Taxley Town*, one Rood and thirty Perches at the South-weſt Part of the ſaid Ground; out of two ſeveral Fen Grounds belonging to the ſaid *Pinchbeck Pierſon*, lying near *Taxley Town*, two Acres and twenty-five Perches at the South-eaſt End thereof; out of the ſeveral Fen Ground of *George Hopkins*, two Roods and twenty Perches at the South-

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South-west Part of the same Ground; out of the several Fen Ground belonging to the said *Emmanuel Probie*, abutting upon *Stilton* Fen, eight Acres and two Roods at the North-east End of the same Ground; out of a several Fen Ground lying between *Witlesey* Meer and *Trundle* Meer, three Acres and three Roods at the East Part thereof; out of another Fen Ground, lying also between *Witlesey* Meer and *Trundle* Meer, one Acre and one Rood at the East Part thereof; and out of the several Fen Ground lying at the End of Conquest Lode, by *Witlesey* Meer, three Roods, abutting upon *Witlesey* Meer afore said.

29 0 0

Out of the common Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Fasset*, in the said County of *Huntingdon*, nine hundred and forty Acres, abutting Eastward upon the Fen called *Middle-moore* in *Ramsay*, and Southward upon *Witlesey* Meer, and upon two several Fen Grounds belonging to *Fasset* afore said, adjoining to the said Meer.

*Fasset*,

940 0 0

Out of the several Fen Grounds of *Fasset* afore said, one hundred sixty and two Acres, being



ing two intire Fen Grounds, }  
 abutting upon the aforefaid com- } 162 0 0  
 mon Fen Grounds of *Fasset* }  
 aforefaid, and upon *Witlefey* }  
 Meer.

## COM. NORTHAMPTON.

*Peter-*  
*borough.*

OUT of the common Fen }  
 Ground of or belonging to }  
 the *Soake* of *Peterborough*, in the }  
 faid County of *Northampton*, }  
 called *Burrough* Great Fen, two }  
 thousand fix hundred twenty and }  
 two Acres, abutting Eastward }  
 upon Part of the faid common }  
 Fen lying near *Finshed* Crofs and } 2622 0 0  
 the Grounds of *Single-sole* }  
*Farm*, Southward upon the Drain }  
 or Way leading from *Peakirk* }  
 Meadow to *Guy Hurne*, North- }  
 ward on the new Bank of }  
 the River *Welland*, and upon the }  
 common Fen Ground called the }  
 four hundred Acres.

Out of the common Fen }  
 Grounds of or belonging to }  
*Peterborough* or *Crowland*, or to }  
 the one of them, called the four }  
 hundred Acres or *Alder Holt*, }  
 lying in the County of *Lin-*  
*coln*,

coln, two hundred and ninety Acres at the West End thereof, abutting upon the said Fen called *Burrough* Great Fen, and the Common Fens of *Crowland*.

290 0 0

**Out of** one other common Fen Ground of or belonging to *Peterborough* aforesaid, in the said County of *Northampton*, called *Burrough* Little Fen, eighty-eight Acres at the East Part thereof, abutting upon *Muscot* Water and *Oxney* Lode.

88 0 0

**Out of** the several Fen Grounds of or belonging unto *Single-sole* Farm, in the said County of *Northampton*, forty-five Acres, abutting Eastward upon *Catwater*, Southward upon the several Fen Grounds of *Northam* Farm, and Westward upon *Peterborough* Great Fen.

45 0 0

**Out of** the several Fen Grounds of or belonging to the said *Northam* Farm, in the said County of *Northampton*, eighty Acres; (that is to say) forty Acres in one Parcel adjoining Eastward upon *Catwater*, Northward upon the said several Fen Grounds of *Single-sole* Farm aforesaid; and the Residue, being forty Acres, out of the several Fen called *Cranmoore*,

out

out of the South-east Part thereof, abutting upon the Fen called the *Harpe*, and upon the hard Lands of *Eye*.

80 0 00

*Eye*.

**Out of** the Fen called the mowing Fen Grounds, of or belonging to *Eye*, in the said County of *Northampton*, fifteen Acres, three Roods and thirty Perches, out of the said Mow Fen called Small-acre Furlong, and *Chillam-tree* Furlong; (that is to say) out of the Ground called Small-acre Furlong, twelve Acres, one Rood and thirty Perches at the East Side of the same Ground, abutting upon *Catwater*; and the Residue, being three Acres and two Roods, out of the said Ground called *Chillam-tree* Furlong, at the North Side thereof, abutting upon the several Ground of *Northam* Farm called the *Reaches*.

15 3 30

**Out of** the several Fen Grounds of *Richard Darbie*, lying between the said Grounds called *Chillam-tree* Furlong and Small-acre Furlong, one Acre and ten Perches, abutting upon *Catwater*.

1 0 10

**Out of** the several Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Tanbolt* Farm, in the said County of *Northampton*, thirty Acres and three

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Fen,  
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three Roods, being one intire Fen, called *Newtred*, abutting upon *Catwater*.

30 3 0

**Out of the several Fen** Grounds of or belonging to *Oxney Farm*, in the said County of *Northampton*, twenty-six Acres, abutting Northward upon the old Engine and the hard Lands of *Eyberry*, and the Fen Grounds of *Tanholt Farm* aforesaid, and South-eastward upon *Catwater*, the Bank near *Burrough Little Fen*, and the other Grounds of the same Farm.

26 0 0

**Out of the several Fen** Grounds of or belonging to the Right Honourable *Francis Earl of Bedford*, lying in *Eyberry* in the said County of *Northampton*, eleven Acres out of the Ground called *Alder Fen*, abutting upon high *Edgerley Common*.

11 0 0

**Out of the lot Fen Ground** belonging to *Eye* aforesaid, called the *Harp*, four Acres and two Roods at the East End of the same, abutting upon the hard Lands of *Eye* aforesaid.

4 2 0

**Out of the several Fen** Grounds of *John Troughton*, lying in *Newark Edgerley*, three Roods at the East Part of the same Ground.

0 3 0

Out



Out of the several Fen  
Ground of Widow *Butcher*, and  
the Heirs of *Giles Burrough*, five  
Acres, in two Parcels lying to-  
gether in the Fens called the *Holts*,  
abutting upon *Peterborough* Great  
Fen.

5 0 0

## COM. LINCOLNE.

Crowland.

OUT of the common Fen  
Grounds of or belonging to  
*Crowland* in the said County of  
*Lincoln*, four hundred Acres  
at the East Part of the same  
Fens, abutting Eastward upon  
*St. Guthlake's* Cross and *Catwater*,  
Southward upon the common  
Fen called the Four-hundred  
Acres, or *Alderbolt*, and North-  
ward upon the Fen Grounds of  
*Crowland* aforesaid, called *Por-*  
*sand* Fen.

400 0 0

<i>Rowland St. John,</i>	<i>Beauchampe St. John,</i>
<i>Robert Bell,</i>	<i>Miles Sandys,</i>
<i>Thomas Deereham,</i>	<i>George Glapthorne,</i>
<i>Everard Buckworth,</i>	<i>Humberston March,</i>
<i>William Fisher,</i>	<i>William Hayward.</i>

All which said Laws, Ordinances, and  
Decrees of Sewers, together with the aforesaid  
Schedules

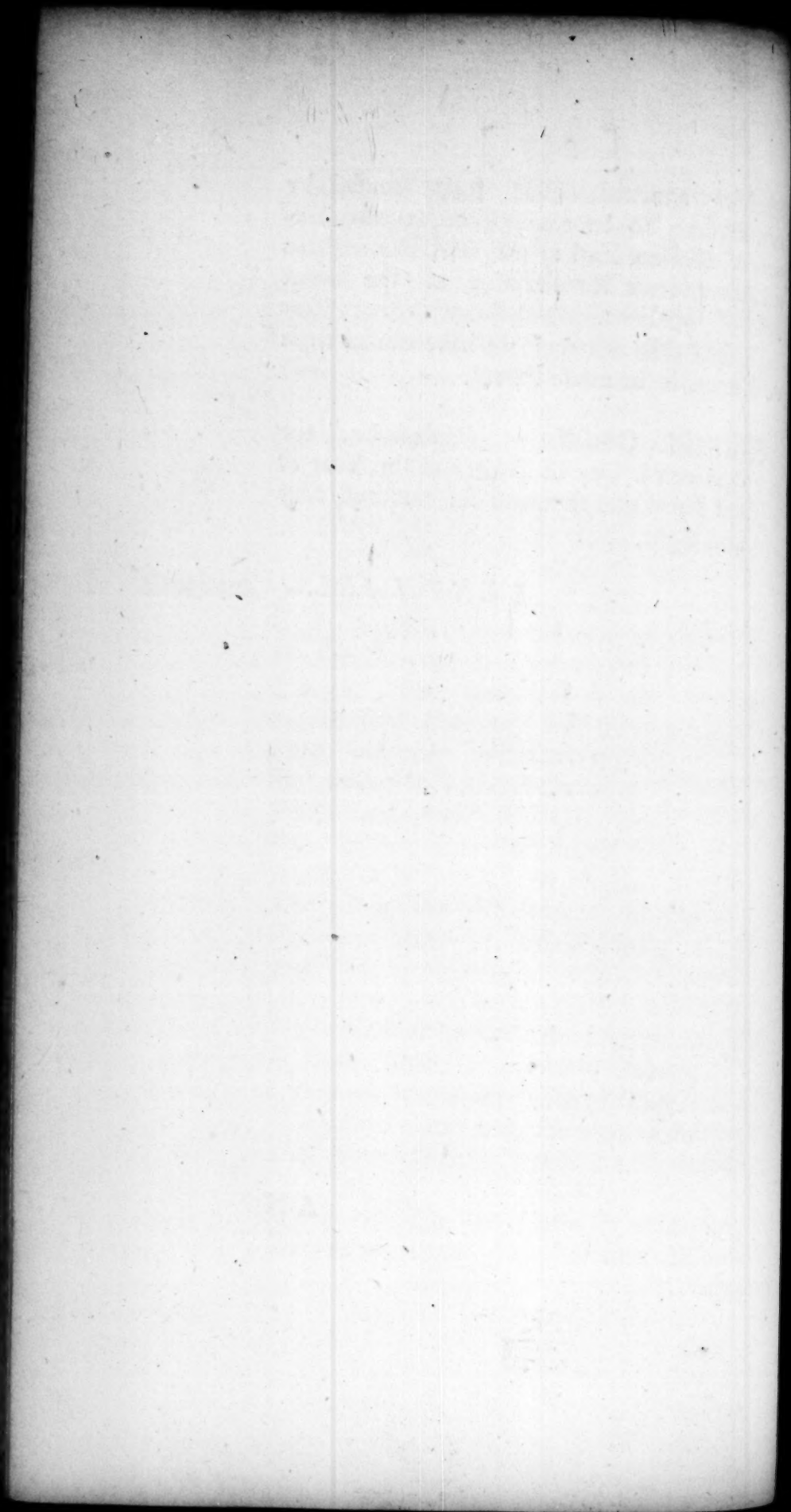
Schedules annexed, **We** have caused by these Presents to be exemplified, at the Request of *William* Earl of *Bedford*, Participants and Adventurers for draining of the Great Level of the Fens.

**In witness** whereof we have caused these our Letters to be made Patent.

**Witness** Ourself at *Westminster*, the eighteenth Day of *March* in the Year of our Lord one thousand six hundred fifty and eight.

**L E N T H A L L.**

**A N**



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A N  
A C T  
FOR THE  
Draining of the Great Level  
OF THE  
F E N S,

Extending itself into the Counties of *Northampton, Norfolk, Suffolk, Lincoln, Cambridge* and *Huntingdon*, and the Isle of *Ely*, or some of them.

*Die Martis, 29 Maii, 1649.*

An Act for draining the Great Level of the Fens, extending itself into the Counties of *Northampton, Norfolk, Suffolk, Lincoln, Cambridge* and *Huntingdon*, and the Isle of *Ely*, or some of them, *was this Day read the third Time, and upon the Question passed, and ordered to be forthwith printed and published.*

Hen. Scobell, Cleric. Parliamenti.

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An ACT for the Draining of  
the great Level of the Fens,  
extending itself into the Coun-  
ties of *Northampton, Norfolk,*  
*Suffolk, Lincoln, Cambridge*  
and *Huntingdon*, and the Isle  
of *Ely*, or some of them.

**W**HEREAS the said great Preamble.  
Level, by Reason of frequent  
Overflowing of the Rivers of  
*Welland, Neane, Grant, Ouse,*  
*Brandon, Mildenhall and Stoke*, have been of  
small and uncertain Profit, but (if drained)  
may be improved and made profitable, and of  
great Advantage to the Commonwealth, and  
to the particular Owners, Commoners and  
Inhabitants, and be fit to bear Coleseed  
and Rapeseed in great Abundance, which is  
of singular Use to make Soap and Oils within  
this Nation, to the Advancement of the  
Trade of Clothing and Spinning of Wool,  
and much of it will be improved into good  
Pasture for feeding and breeding of Cattle,  
and for Tillage to be sown with Corn and  
Grain, and for Hemp and Flax in great Quan-  
R tity

Boundaries of  
the Level.

tity, for making all Sorts of Linen Cloth and Cordage for Shipping within this Nation; which will increase Manufactures, Commerce and Trading at home and abroad, will relieve the Poor by setting them on Work, and will many other Ways redound to the great Advantage and Strengthening of the Nation: And first, to the End it may be known what that Great Level is, and for the ascertaining the Extent, Bounds and Limits thereof, and for Prevention of all Doubts, Questions and Ambiguities touching the same, Be it enacted, ordained and declared by the Authority of this present Parliament, That the Moors, Marshes, fenny and low surrounded Grounds, bounding themselves Eastward from the Bridge and Causey of *Stoke* unto *Brandon* Bridge, upon the Uplands of *Northwold*, *Metwold*, *Feltwell*, *Hockwold* and *Wilton* in the County of *Norfolk*, and from *Brandon* Bridge unto the End of *Worlington* Lode upon *Mildenhall* River, upon the Uplands of *Brandon*, the low Grounds of *Waynsford* excluding the same, the Uplands of *Laking* Heath, the low Grounds of *Eastwell* excluding the same, and the Uplands of *Mildenhall* in the County of *Suffolk*, Southward from *Worlington* Lode unto *Burwell* Block, upon the Uplands of *Freckingham*, *Isleham*, *Fodham*, *Soham* and *Wicken* in the County of *Cambridge*, and excluding the low Grounds of *Burwell*, *Lanward*, and other Places lying Eastward from *Burwell* Block aforesaid; and from thence unto the Mill near *Anglesey* Abbey, upon the Uplands of *Burwell* Reach, *Swaffham* Prior,  
*Swaffham*

*Swaffham Bulbeck*, and *Bottesham* in the said County of *Cambridge*, and from thence unto the Ferry-place at *Claybith*, upon the Uplands called *Qui Hall*, the low Ground called *Low Fen*, and the Uplands of *Horningsey* and *Claybith*, in the said County, excluding the low Grounds called *Low Fen* and *Offen*, and from the said Ferry-place unto *Over Lode*, upon the Uplands of *Waterbeach*, *Cottenham*, *Rampton*, *Wivelingham*, and *Over*, in the said County of *Cambridge*, and upon the low Grounds of *Swacey* in the said County, excluding the same Westward from *Erith*, unto the Dam lately made upon the River *Neane* near *Standground*, upon the Uplands of *Somersham*, and the Soake thereof, *Warboys*, *Wistow*, *Berry*, *Ramsay*, *Upwood*, *Raveley*, *Woodwalton*, *Sawtrey*, *Connington*, *Glatton* and *Holme*, *Caldicot*, *Denton*, *Stilton*, *Yaxley*, *Fasset* and *Standground* in the County of *Huntingdon*, excluding the low Grounds lying on the North Side of the River *Ouse* above *Erith*; and from the said Dam unto *Peterborough Bridge*, upon the said River of *Neane*; and from thence unto the Ferry-place near *Waldram Hall* upon the Uplands of *Peterborough* and the Soake thereof in the County of *Northampton*, Northward from the said Ferry-place near *Waldram Hall* unto *Crowland Bridge* upon the River of *Welland*, and from thence to *Dowdsdale* upon the Banks of great *Porsand*, and from thence unto *Guyburne* upon the Southea Bank, and from thence unto *Tilneyburne* upon the Bank of the Fen Ground call *Waldersey*, and from thence unto *Elme-Leame* at *Gran-*



gers House upon the Bank of the Fen Ground called *Coldham*, and from thence unto the River of *Neane* near *Thurlings* in *Upwell*, upon the Bank of *Needham* called *Bishops Dike*, and from thence unto *Well Creek* at the North-west Corner of *Walsingham* Fen, upon the Bank of the Grounds in *Upwell* and *Outwell*, called *Plawfield* and *Cchurchfield*, excluding the aforesaid Fens and Grounds called *Waldersley*, *Coldham*, *Needham*, *Plawfield* and *Cchurchfield*; and from thence unto *Salters Lode* upon the new *Podike* Bank, and from thence unto the Mouth of the River *Wissey* upon the River *Ouse*, and from thence unto *Helgey* Bridge upon the River *Wissey*; and from thence unto the Upland at the End of the Bank of the Grounds late of *Edmond Skipwith* Esq; deceased, upon the said Bank; and from thence unto *Stoake* Bridge, upon the Uplands of *Roxham*, *Dereham*, *Wereham*, *Wretton* and *Stoake* in the said County of *Norfolk*: And all Moors, Marshes, fenny and low surrounded Grounds, within the Bounds, Limits and Precincts aforesaid, are and be, and shall from Time to Time hereafter by Virtue of this Act be taken and esteemed to be the said Great Level, to be drained as hereafter is expressed; except always the imbanked Grounds late of the said *Edmond Skipwith* Esq; lying on the North Side of the River of *Ouse*. And whereas *Francis* late Earl of *Bedford*, in his Life-time, did undertake the said Work, and had ninety-five thousand Acres, Parcel of the said Great Level, de-

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creed and set forth in *October* in the thirteenth 95000 Acres  
 Year of the Reign of the late King *Charles* in set out in Oc-  
 Recompence thereof; and he and his Partici- tober 13 Car.  
 pants, and the Adventurers in the said Work, 1. to Earl of  
 and their Heirs and Assigns, have made a Bedford.  
 good Progress therein with Expence of great  
 and vast Sums of Money, and so far pro-  
 ceeded as that the greatest Part of the said  
 ninety-five thousand Acres was divided by  
 twenty Lots and Shares amongst the said *Francis*  
*Earl of Bedford*, Adventurers and Partici-  
 pants, and their Assigns; but by Reason of  
 some late Interruptions the Works there made  
 have fallen into Decay, so that the intended  
 Benefit to the Commonwealth hath been in a  
 great Measure hitherto prevented and delayed:  
 And whereas *William* now Earl of *Bedford*,  
 Son and Heir of the said *Francis*, late Earl  
 of *Bedford*, and the said Participants and Ad-  
 venturers, their Heirs and Assigns, are content  
 to proceed effectually in the said Work of  
 Draining, and forthwith after the Passing of  
 this Act to begin and prosecute the same with-  
 out Cessation or Intermission, until the Work  
 be done, unseasonable Times and Extremity  
 of Weather only excepted; to the End there-  
 fore so public a Work, proper for the Care of  
 a Parliament, may continue, proceed and be  
 prosecuted with Justice, Equality and Effect,  
 Be it enacted and ordained, and it is hereby  
 enacted and ordained by the Authority afore-  
 said, That the said *William* Earl of *Bedford*, William Earl  
 the said Participants and Adventurers, and his of Bedford de-  
 and their Heirs and Assigns, be and are here- clared Under-  
 by declared to be the Undertakers of the said taker.

Time to complete the Draining till October 1656, without Prejudice to Navigation.

To be made Winter Ground,

inevitable Breaches excepted.

Receptacles not to exceed 15000 Acres besides Meers, Pools, &c.

Four Trustees.

Work of Draining the said Great Level, and shall at or before the tenth Day of October, which shall be in the Year of our Lord 1656, cause the same to be drained and imbanked, without Prejudice to the Navigation in the said Rivers or the Parts adjacent; and all the said Level, except as hereafter is excepted, shall be made Winter Ground, in such Manner as the said Rivers or any of them shall not overflow the Grounds within the said Level; Breaches by inevitable Accidents, which are in convenient Time to be repaired and made good again by the said *William Earl of Bedford*, Participants and Adventurers, his and their Heirs and Assigns, only excepted; and except such Lands and Grounds, Parcel of the said Level, which are not to exceed fifteen thousand Acres at the most, which may be left in several Places for Receptacles and Beds for the Water upon sudden Rains and Floods, besides the Meers, Pools and Channels within the said Level which are not intended to be drained. And be it therefore further enacted and ordained, That the said *William now Earl of Bedford*, *Edward Russell*, Esq; *Robert Henley*, Esq; and *Robert Castle*, Esq; their Heirs and Assigns, upon the Trusts hereafter following, and in Recompence of the aforesaid Charge and Adventure, and for bearing the Charge of Draining, and maintaining the Works from Time to Time, shall have and enjoy the said whole ninety-five thousand Acres, as well those Parts which were not, as those which were comprised within the said twenty Lots, Parcel of the said

said Great Level, and lying within the Boundaries beforementioned, as the same have heretofore been set forth in *October* in the thirteenth Year of the Reign of the said late King, or hereafter shall by Virtue of this Act be allotted, set forth, severed or divided for that Purpose, to hold to them the said *William Earl of Bedford, Edward Russel, Robert Henley and Robert Castle*, their Heirs and Assigns, to the Use of them, their Heirs and Assigns, in Trust nevertheless for the said *William Earl of Bedford*, Participants, and Adventurers, and their Heirs and Assigns, who had or have the said twenty Lots, and the Heirs of such Assigns, and for no other Person or Persons, according to their severall and respective Proportions, and to execute Estates accordingly upon Request. And in case any Difference shall arise, who be, or ought to be, Adventurers and Participants, or Assigns, or about Proportions assigned, then the Commissioners hereafter named, or any six or more of them, shall have Power to determine the same. And it is hereby further enacted and ordained, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said *William Earl of Bedford*, his Participants and Adventurers, and his and their Heirs and Assigns and the Persons employed by them, to make any new or enlarge any old Cuts, Saffies, Sluces, Drains, Banks, Receptracles, or other Works necessary or conducing to or for the said Draining, through or upon the Grounds of any Person or Persons within or without the said Level; and for that Purpose from Time to Time shall have free Passage,

to enjoy the Lands as set out in *October*, 13 Car.

Four Trustees to execute Estates upon Request. Commissioners hereafter named to determine Differences.

*William Earl Bedford*, Participants and Adventurers, to make new or enlarge any old Cuts, &c.



Free Egrefs  
with Carts,  
Carriages, &c.

Not to meddle  
with the Ri-  
ver of Wel-  
land,

Ingress, Egrefs and Regrefs, for themselves, their Agents and Workmen, and their Horses, Carts and Carriages, into, by and through the said Grounds or any Part thereof; paying or tendering to the Owners of, and Parties interested in the said Grounds, for all such Cuts, Saffes, Sluces, Drains, Banks, Receptacles, or other Works made or to be made in and upon the Grounds without or within the said Level, such reasonable Recompence as by the said Owners and Parties interested shall be agreed upon; or if any Difference happen therein, then as shall be ordered and adjudged by the Commissioners hereafter named, or by any six or more of them. Provided, That the said Earl of *Bedford*, Participants, Adventurers nor Commissioners, nor any of them, shall, by any Authority hereby given or granted, intermeddle with the River of *Wel-*  
*land*, or interrupt the Fall of the Waters into the same, nor draw any the Waters from the said River; but that all the Waters in and falling into that River, shall be suffered to go into the direct Course to *Spalding* and so to the Sea, for the Preservation of the Country by clearing the Outfall; nor shall, by any Authority hereby given or granted, make any Cuts, Drains, or other Works, in, upon or through any Parts of *Deeping* Fens, but that the same be wholly left to the Drainers of those Fens as formerly. And be it further enacted and ordained, That no Commissioner or Commissioners of Sewers, by Virtue or Colour of any Commission in that Behalf, shall at all inter-

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meddle in the said Level, to interrupt, disturb or molest the said *William* Earl of *Bedford*, his Participants, Adventurers, his and their Heirs and Assigns, Agents and Workmen, in the carrying on and perfecting of the said Work; and that the said Earl of *Bedford*, his Participants, Adventurers, Heirs and Assigns, or any five or more of them, shall have Power to collect and levy, as well the Arrears of old Taxes formerly set upon and among themselves, as to set new Taxes upon and among themselves, and levy Money out of the said ninety-five thousand Acres for and towards the Charges of the said Work of Draining, and all other Charges tending to or depending upon the same, according as they or any five or more of them in their Judgments shall think fit; and to make Orders and Rules for the doing and maintaining the said Work, and to govern and manage the same; and to appoint and employ such Officers, Agents, Ministers and Workmen, and to change them or any of them, and to employ others in their Rooms, from Time to Time as they shall think fit; and also shall have Power to give Remittance to such Officers, Agents, Ministers, Surveyors, Workmen, and all other Person or Persons whatsoever, employed by them in or about the said Work of Draining, or maintaining thereof, in Land out of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, or Money, or both, as they or any five or more of them in their Judgments shall think fit: And that if the said *William* Earl of *Bedford*, Participants

no Commissi-  
oners of Sew-  
ers to inter-  
meddle.

Five Partici-  
pants or Ad-  
venturers as  
well to collect  
old Arrears of  
Taxes as set-  
tle new.

To make Or-  
ders and em-  
ploy Work-  
men, &c.

Any five Participants to sell for Non-payment of Taxes.

pants and Adventurers, his and their Heirs and Assigns, or any of them, which now have or hereafter shall have any Part of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, shall refuse or make Default to pay such Arrears or proportionable Tax or Taxes as shall be laid on them, in Respect to his or their Share in or out of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, by such five or more of the Participants and Adventurers as aforesaid, That then for such Default the Lot or Share in the said Lands of such as shall not bring in and pay their Tax and Taxes so to be laid, shall be forthwith sold by such five or more of the said Participants and Adventurers as aforesaid, in such Proportion as they shall think fit, restoring the Surplusage of the Money, if any be, for raising and Payment of the said Arrears, Tax or Taxes, by any Writing under any five or more of their Hands and Seals; and the Person or Persons to whom such Sale shall be made, shall be a lawful Assignee of so much as shall be so sold, to all Intents and Purposes. And whereas after the Work shall be done, there will require from Time to Time a Care to uphold and maintain the same, Be it enacted and ordained, That no Commissioners of Sewers, by Virtue of any Commission in that Behalf, shall at all intermeddle in the said Level, but that the Commissioners named in this Act, and such others as shall be hereafter nominated in their Rooms from Time to Time under the Great Seal of *England*, or by Act of Parliament: And the said *William Earl of Bedford*, Participants and

and Adventurerers, his and their Heirs Each Person  
 and Assigns, each of them, the said Earl, having 200  
 Participants and Adventurers, their Heirs and Acres to have  
 Assigns, having two hundred Acres a-piece of the Power of  
 said ninety-five thousand Acres, or any five or Commissioner  
 mote of them, after the said Work of Drain- of Sewers.  
 ing shall be adjudged, and none other Person  
 or Persons, shall within the said Level have  
 such and the same Power and Authority, as  
 Commissioners of Sewers, authorized by Act  
 or Acts of Parliament heretofore made and  
 enacted, and now in Force, have or might  
 have within the said Level: And also shall Power to lay  
 have Power to make Taxes from Time to Taxes,  
 Time, upon the ninety-five thousand Acres  
 only, for the Upholding, Repairing and  
 Maintaining of the said Works: And shall  
 have Power, by Virtue of this Act, for le-  
 vying of the said Taxes, to sequester and re- to levy, se-  
 ceive the Profits of the Defaulters Lands, quester and  
 Parcel of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, distrain,  
 for satisfying the same, or to take Distresses  
 in and upon the same: And shall have further  
 Power for the Maintainance of the said Work,  
 to make such By-Laws and Orders, as by and make By-  
 according to the Laws and Customs of *Romney* laws.  
 Marsh is provided or used, as well for the laying  
 and raising of Taxes for the Maintainance of  
 the said Work, as for the making and appoint-  
 ing Officers for the Overseeing and Main-  
 taining thereof from Time to Time, and al-  
 lowing fit Salaries and Recompence for the  
 same, and for all other necessary Purposes  
 and Things, as they shall think fit and re-  
 quisite in that Behalf, out of the said ninety-  
 five



Commissioners  
to meet.

five thousand Acres only. And be it further enacted and ordained, That the Commissioners hereafter named, or any five or more of them, shall hereby have Power to meet in the *Middle-Temple Hall London*, upon the seventh Day after the End of every Term, there to advise and direct, do and act, according to the Powers in this Act given to them; and shall have Power from Time to Time to adjourn their Meeting to such other Time and Place as they shall think fit, and hereby shall have Power, by View or otherwise as to them shall seem meet, from Time to Time, when and so often as any Part or Parts of the said Level, amounting to the Quantity of thirty thousand Acres or more, shall be drained as aforesaid, to judge the same to be drained, and forthwith to give the said *William Earl of Bedford, Edward Russell, Robert Henley and Robert Castle*, their Heirs and Assigns in Trust as aforesaid, Seisin and Possession of his and their Proportions of the ninety-five thousand Acres formerly set forth as aforesaid, or according to such Alterations therein as shall be made by Virtue of this Act, lying within the said Quantity of thirty thousand Acres or more that shall be so adjudged: And that the said *William Earl of Bedford, Edward Russell, Robert Henley and Robert Castle*, their Heirs and Assigns, upon such Trust as aforesaid, shall from thenceforth quietly and peaceably hold and enjoy the said Proportions that are or shall be set forth and allotted to them: And the said whole ninety-five thousand Acres, when the said whole Le-

When 3000  
Acres drained  
to adjudge.

To deliver  
Seisin of so  
much of the  
95000 Acres  
as shall lie  
therein,

and when the  
whole drained  
the 95000  
Acres to be  
delivered.

vel shall be adjudged to be drained as afore-  
 said, whereby they shall become true and  
 lawful Owners thereof, and rightfully seised to  
 them and their Heirs, to the Use of them  
 and their Heirs, upon such Trust as afore-  
 said, to hold the same, without any Let, In-  
 terruption, Diminution or Disturbance of the  
 said late King, his Heirs or Successors, or any  
 Claiming by, from or under him; and shall  
 hold the same of the Manor of *East Greenwich*,  
 by Fealty only, in free and common Soc-  
 cage, and not otherwise; any Law, Decree,  
 Act of Sewers, or other Thing whatsoever to  
 the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstand-  
 ing. And whereas some particular Persons  
 and Parishes do conceive that the Draining  
 in one Place would drown or make worse their  
 Lands in other Places, and whereas likewise  
 divers Persons have or will receive Benefit by  
 the said Draining, and do not yet contribute  
 towards the said ninety-five thousand Acres;  
 and others do conceive and fear that they shall  
 be drawn to contribute to the same though  
 they receive no Benefit thereby, and do fur-  
 ther alledge that the said ninety-five thousand  
 Acres in many Places are not indifferently set  
 out; Be it therefore further enacted and or-  
 dained, That the said Commissioners hereafter  
 named, or any six or more of them, shall  
 have Power within three Years after the said  
 Draining adjudged, and such Possession given  
 as aforesaid, to give or make, and shall give  
 or make Satisfaction out of the ninety-five  
 thousand Acres, to such Person or Persons  
 whose Lands or Interest therein shall be made  
 worse

To hold of the  
 Manor of East  
 Greenwich.

To give Satis-  
 faction for  
 Lands made  
 worse than in  
 6 Car. 1.

Power within  
three Years to  
give Allow-  
ance for all  
Lands bettered  
which do not  
contribute to  
the 95000  
Acres.

To restore  
Lands unduly  
set forth,  
and set forth  
others in Lieu.

worse in Quality or Condition by the afore-  
said Draining, then they were before the Un-  
dertaking of the Draining of the said Level,  
in the sixth Year of the Reign of the said late  
King, and proportionable to the Loss and  
Damage the Owners and Occupiers of such  
Lands shall receive by Reason of the said  
Draining; and also shall have Power within  
the said three Years to give Allowance to the  
said *William Earl of Bedford, Edward Russell,*  
*Robert Henley* and *Robert Castle*, their Heirs  
and Assigns, (in Trust as aforesaid) out of all  
such Lands as are not contributory to the said  
ninety-five thousand Acres, and shall be bet-  
ter in Quality or Condition for and by Rea-  
son of the said Draining, or be thereby secured  
from Overflowings and Inundations, and propor-  
tionable to the Benefit the Owners and Occupiers  
of such Lands shall receive thereby; and shall  
also have like Power, within the said three  
Years after Possession given as aforesaid, to  
alter, change and restore such Part of the said  
ninety-five thousand Acres as shall be found  
upon Complaint to be unequally and unduly  
set forth, and shall thereupon set forth in Lieu  
thereof, like Proportions in such other Places  
within the said Level as shall then be ad-  
judged to be drained, to and for the said *Wil-*  
*liam Earl of Bedford, Edward Russell, Robert*  
*Henley* and *Robert Castle*, their Heirs and As-  
signs, to be by them quietly enjoyed in Trust,  
and to be holden of the said Manor of *East*  
*Greenwich* as aforesaid; the Parliament hereby  
declaring that in the Adjudication Care shall

be taken, that the Lands, which since the said Undertaking in the said Sixth Year of the said late King have not or shall not receive Benefit by the said Draining, may not be made contributory to the said ninety-five thousand Acres, nor to the Charges of the said Draining, but that the Contributions shall be taken only out of such Lands as shall be bettered by the said Draining. And be it further enacted and ordained, That any Person or Persons, Bodies Politick or Corporate, shall and may be admitted to adventure for any Quantity or share of two thousand Acres, one thousand Acres, or five hundred Acres, Parcel of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, so as the whole Quantity of Land, which all Person or Persons, Bodies Politick or Corporate so to be admitted to adventure for, exceed not thirty thousand Acres, to be indifferently divided and set out to such Adventurers in any Part of the said twenty Lots, except in one Lot in the Lordship of *Thorney*, belonging to the said *William Earl of Bedford*, at the Rate of fifty Shillings an Acre; To have and to hold to them and their Heirs, so as the Party or Parties so desiring to adventure shall, within three Months after the Passing of this Act, subscribe in a Book to be appointed by the said *William Earl of Bedford*, *Edward Russell*, *Robert Henley* and *Robert Castle*, or any two of them, to be kept for that Purpose, for how many Acres he or they will make Choice to adventure for, and so as one half of the whole Sum, which the Adventure of any Person

Lands receiving no Benefit not to contribute.

To adventure for 2000, 1000, or 500 Acres,

except the 20th Lot.

Adventurers to subscribe in a Book what they adventure for,



at the Rate of  
50s. *per* Acre  
to be paid to  
Treasurer.

Trustees to  
appoint Trea-  
surer and  
Clerk.

son or Persons, Bodies Politick and Corporate  
so adventuring at the Rate of fifty Shillings  
an Acre, shall amount unto as aforesaid, shall  
be paid in to such Treasurer or Receiver as  
shall be appointed by the said *William* Earl of  
*Bedford*, *Edward Russell*, *Robert Henley* and *Robert*  
*Castle*, or any two of them, before the End  
of three Months next after the Passing of this  
Act, and the other Half thereof within one  
Year next after the Passing of this Act: And  
from and after such Payments, the said *Wil-*  
*liam* Earl of *Bedford*, *Edward Russell*, *Robert*  
*Henley* and *Robert Castle*, their Heirs and  
Assigns, to stand trusted for such Party or  
Parties so adventuring, their Heirs and As-  
signs, according to their Proportions adven-  
tured for, as for the other former Adventurers  
and Participants, and their Heirs and Assigns.  
And the said *William* Earl of *Bedford*, *Edward*  
*Russell*, *Robert Henley*, and *Robert Castle*, or  
any two of them, are hereby authorized to  
appoint as well a Treasurer for Receipt of all  
such Monies, as a Clerk for keeping the said  
Book, and shall have Power to change them  
as often as they shall see Cause, and to dis-  
pose the Money paid in by any such new Ad-  
venturer, or any Part thereof, for the Per-  
fecting the said Work of Draining; and the  
Surplusage, if any be, amongst the said *Wil-*  
*liam* Earl of *Bedford*, and former Adventurers  
and Participants, their Heirs and Assigns, and  
such Person or Persons from whom any Land  
Part of the ninety-five thousand Acres, shall  
be taken by Reason of such new Adventurers.

shall receive a full and proportionable Compensation for such Lands out of the Residue of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, from every one Share and Share like, according to the Proportion of the Adventure, except the said *William* Earl of *Bedford's* Lot in *Thorney*, for which nevertheless he is to be contributory in Proportion by other his Lands, Parcel of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, for Supply thereof; and in Case any Difference arise about the setting out any such Adventures or Proportioning of Satisfaction, the Commissioners hereafter named, or any six or more of them, are hereby authorized and required to hear and determine the same: And such Person or Persons adventuring as aforesaid, shall not pay or be contributory to pay any more than the said Sum of fifty Shillings an Acre, for or towards the doing of the said Work of Draining; yet nevertheless every such Person or Persons so adventuring, after the said Work of Draining or any Part thereof shall be judged to be done, shall always afterwards, for the Quantity of his and their Adventure, be liable and equally contributory, according to his and their Proportion, to and with the Residue of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, or any Part thereof, for and towards the Repairs, Maintenance and Keeping of the said Works of Draining:

And whereas by a Law or Decree of Sewers, made in the nineteenth Year of the Reign of King *James*, one hundred and twenty

Differences about setting out Adventures to be determined by Commissioners.

After Draining, Adventurers Shares to contribute to Repairs and Maintenance.

Law of Sewers 19 Jac. Law of Sewers at Huntingdon, 14 Car. 1. declared null and void.

Earl of Bedford and Adventurers to meet and enter in a Book Names and Shares of Adventurers.

No Conveyance of 95000 Acres to be valid but from

thousand Acres were decreed to be given for the Draining of the said Level; and whereas by another Law or Decree of Sewers, made at *Huntingdon*, in the fourteenth Year of the Reign of the said King *Charles*, fifty-seven thousand Acres, over and above the said ninety-five thousand Acres, were also decreed to be given for the said Draining; now to the End the Country may not be double charged, nor any Diminution of the Recompence hereby intended to be given for the said Work, be it therefore further enacted, That the said two Laws or Decrees of Sewers shall from henceforth be null, void and of none Effect, to all Intents and Purposes whatsoever. And to prevent Differences between the Adventurers and Participants, their Heirs and Assigns, and that Adventurers and Purchasers may enjoy what of Right to them belongs, be it further enacted, that the said *William Earl of Bedford*, Adventurers and Participants, their Heirs and Assigns, or so many of them as will, do meet the *Thursday* Fortnight, next after the Passing of this Act, in the *Middle Temple Hall, London*, and there chuse a Treasurer and Clerk; and within three Months after the Passing of this Act, cause to be entered by the said Clerk in the aforesaid Book the Names and particular Shares of each Adventurer, Participant, or Heir or Assignee of any Adventurer or Participant in the said ninety-five thousand Acres: And that no Conveyance hereafter to be made, either by the said *William Earl of Bedford*, *Edward Russell*, *Robert*

*Robert Henley and Robert Castle*, and their Heirs, in Pursuance of the aforesaid Trust or otherwise, or any Assignment, Lease, Grant or Conveyance by any Adventurer or Participant, their Heirs or Assigns, of any of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, or any Thing or Charge upon or out of the same, shall be valid or of Force, until such Assignment, Lease, Grant or Conveyance or Charge shall be entered in the Book with the said Clerk for the Time being, or inrolled in the Chancery.

Time of Entry  
in a Book by  
Clerk, or In-  
rolment in  
Chancery.

And be it further enacted and ordained by the Authority aforesaid, That the Commissioners hereafter named, or any six or more of them, shall and may inform themselves by Examination of Witnesses upon Oath, which hereby they or any six or more of them shall have Power to administer, and by their own View, or by both or either of the said Ways, as in their Judgment shall be expedient, of all such Points, Matters and Things which in their Judgments are or shall be necessary, for the better and more speedy executing all and

Commissioners  
after named,  
on Examina-  
tion of Wit-  
nesses on Oath,  
and their own  
View, may  
adjudge of  
Matters neces-  
sary to be  
done, accord-  
ing to the In-  
tent of this  
Act.

every the Powers hereby given them, and doing Justice therein according to the true Intent and Meaning of this Act. And the Sheriffs, and all other Officers and Ministers of all and every the respective Counties in which the Premises lie, are hereby required to be aiding and assisting in all and singular the Premises.

Sheriffs and  
Officers to  
assist them.

And it is hereby enacted and ordained by the Authority aforesaid, That *William Lenthall*, Esq; Speaker of the Parliament, the Lord Keeper, Lord Chancellor, or Lord Commissioner or Commissioners of the Great Seal of

Commissioners  
named.



England for the Time being, all the Judges of the Upper Bench and Common Pleas, and Barons of the Court of Exchequer for the Time being, *Philip* Earl of *Pembroke* and *Montgomery*, *William* Earl of *Salisbury*, *Edward* Lord *Howard* Baron of *Escrick*, *Sir John* *Danvers*, Knight, *Sir John* *Burgoyne*, Knight, *Sir John* *Bourchier*, Knight, *Sir Thomas* *Walsingham*, Knight, *Sir Nathaniel* *Barnardiston*, Knight, *Sir Gilbert* *Pickering*, Knight and Baronet, *Sir Dudley* *North*, Knight, *Sir John* *Trevor*, Knight, *Sir Peter* *Wentworth*, Knight of the *Bath*, *Sir John* *Evelyn* of *Willis*, Knight, *Sir Henry* *Mildmay*, Knight, *Oliver* *Cromwell*, Lieutenant General, *Henry* *Iretton*, Commissary General, *Robert* *Reynolds*, Esq; *Miles* *Corbet*, Esq; *Nathaniel* *Bacon*, Esq; *John* *Maynard*, Esq; *Henry* *Darley*, Esq; *Robert* *Brewster*, Esq; *John* *Crew*, Esq; *John* *Trenchard*, Esq; *John* *Palmer*, Doctor of the Laws, *John* *Goodwin*, Esq; Colonel *Valentine* *Wanton*, *Talbot* *Pepys*, Esq; *Alexander* *Rigby*, Esq; *John* *Gourdon*, Esq; *William* *Leman*, Esq; *Thomas* *Toll*, Esq; *Francis* *Bacon*, Esq; *Nicholas* *Love*, Esq; *Luke* *Robinson*, Esq; *Richard* *Cromwell*, Esq; Colonel *Edward* *Rossitor*, *John* *Selden*, Esq; *Nathaniel* *Fines*, Esq; *William* *Pierrepont*, Esq; *John* *Dove*, Esq; Colonel *Francis* *Russell*, *Richard* *Knightley*, Esq; *John* *Fry*, Esq; *John* *Sadler*, Esq; *Edward* *Eltonhead*, Esq; *Jeremiah* *Whitchcor*, Esq; *William* *Steel*, Esq; *William* *Stephens*, Esq; *John* *Stephens*, Esq; *Thomas* *Ducket*, Esq; *John* *Lorery*, Esq; and every of them, are hereby appointed and authorized Commissioners to hear, determine

determine, order, adjudge and execute all such Matters and Things as are prescribed in this Act before limited. And it is lastly ordained by Authority aforesaid, That all and every Person or Persons concerned or to be concerned by this Act, or which shall do any Thing in Execution of the same, shall and may upon any Action, Suit or Information, plead the General Issue; and upon any Issue joined may give this Act in Evidence, which shall be of equal Force and Validity as if the same had been especially pleaded, and all Judges, Justices, Jurors and others, so to accept the same.

**Actions**  
brought for  
any thing done  
in executing  
of this Act,  
Defendant  
may plead the  
General Issue,  
and give Act  
in Evidence.



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Anno Regni  
**C A R O L I II.**  
R E G I S

*Angliæ, Scotiæ, Franciæ & Hiberniæ,*  
D E C I M O Q U I N T O.

At the Parliament begun at *Westminster* the eighth Day of *May Anno Domini 1661*, in the thirteenth Year of the Reign of our most Gracious Sovereign Lord *CHARLES*, by the Grace of God, of *England, Scotland, France and Ireland* King, Defender of the Faith, &c.

And there continued till the nineteenth of *May* in the fourteenth Year of his Majesty's said Reign: And thence prorogued to the eighteenth of *February* then next following:

And there continued to the twenty-seventh of *July* in the fifteenth Year of his Majesty's Reign: And thence prorogued to the sixteenth of *March* then next following.

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Anno Regni  
CAROLI II.  
1685

Agnes, Countess of Arundel  
BY CHANCE OF DEATH  
IN THE YEAR 1685  
W

in which contained the names of the  
persons who were present at the  
trial and the names of the  
jurors who were sworn to  
try the cause. The names of the  
jurors were sworn to try the  
cause. The names of the jurors  
were sworn to try the cause.

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Anno XV.

CAROLI II. Regis.

An Act for settling the Draining of the Great Level of the Fens called *Bedford Level*.

**W**HEREAS certain Moors, Preamble.  
Marshes, fenny and low surrounded Grounds within the Counties of *Northampton*, *Norfolk*, *Suffolk*, *Lincoln*, *Cambridge* and *Huntingdon*, and the Isle of *Ely* were called the *Great Level of the Fens*, and after several fruitless Undertakings for Draining the same were, upon the Desires of many Persons of Worth and interested in the same, declared to be a great and noble Work and of much Concernment to the whole Country, and at their earnest Desire undertaken to be drained by *Francis* late Earl of *Bedford*, according to a Law of Sewers made at King's *Lynn* in the sixth Year of the Reign of the late King *Charles* of Glorious Memory, which said Level is bounded as followeth,

Boundaries  
the Level.

of followeth, (*viz.*) Eastward from the Bridge and Causey of *Stoake* unto *Brandon* Bridge upon the Uplands of *Northold*, *Methold*, *Feltwell*, *Hockwold* and *Wilton* in the County of *Norfolk*, and from *Brandon* Bridge unto the End of *Worlington* Lode upon *Mildenhall* River, upon the Uplands of *Brandon*, the Low Grounds of *Wainsford* excluding the same, the Uplands of *Lakingbeath*, the Low Grounds of *Earsewell* excluding the same: And the Uplands of *Mildenhall* in the County of *Suffolk* Southward from *Worlington* Lode unto *Burwell* Block upon the Uplands of *Frekingham*, *Ipsam*, *Fordham*, *Soham* and *Wickin* in the County of *Cambridge*, and excluding the Low Grounds of *Burwell*, *Landward* and other Places lying Eastward from *Burwell* Block aforesaid, and from thence unto the Mill near *Anglesey Abby* upon the Uplands of *Burwell* Reach, *Swaffham* Prior, *Swaffham* Bulbeck and *Botsham* in the County of *Cambridge*; and from thence unto the Ferry-place at *Claybith* upon the Uplands called *Quyball*, the Low Ground called *Low Fen*, and the Uplands of *Horningsey* and *Claybith* in the said County, excluding the Low Grounds called *Low Fen* and *Offenne*; and from the said Ferry-place unto *Over* Lode upon the Uplands of *Water-beach*, *Cottenham*, *Rampton*, *Wivelingham* and *Over* in the said County of *Cambridge*, and upon the Low Grounds of *Swacy* in the said County, excluding the same Westward from *Erith* unto the Dam lately made upon the River *Neane* near *Standground* upon the Uplands of *Somersbam* and the Soake thereof, *Warbois*, *Wistow*,  
Berry,

Berry, Ramsey, Upwood, Raveley, Wood-walton, Sawrey, Connington, Glatton and Holme, Caldecott, Denton, Stilton, Yaxley, Fasset and Standground in the County of Huntingdon, excluding the Low Grounds lying on the North Side of the River of Ouse above Eritb; and from the said Dam unto *Peterborough* Bridge upon the said River of *Neane*; and from thence unto the Ferry-place near *Waldron Hall* upon the Uplands of *Peterborough* and the Soake thereof in the County of *Northampton*; and Northward from the said Ferry-place near *Waldron Hall* unto *Crowland* Bridge upon the River of *Welland*, and from thence to *Dowsedale* upon the Bank of *Great Porsand*, and from thence unto *Guyburne* upon the Southea Bank, and from thence unto *Tilneburne* upon the Bank of the Fen Ground called *Waldersea*, and from thence unto *Elme Leame* at *Grangers House* upon the Bank of the Fen Ground called *Coldham*, and from thence unto the River of *Neane* near *Thurlings* in *Upwell* upon the Bank of *Needham* called *Bishops Dike*, and from thence unto *Well Creek* at the North-west Corner of *Wassingham Fen*, upon the Bank of the Grounds in *Upwell* and *Outwell* called *Playfeild* and *Churchfeild*, excluding the afore-said Fens and Grounds called *Waldersea*, *Coldham*, *Needam*, *Playfeild* and *Churchfeild*; and from thence unto *Salters Lode* upon the new *Podyke Bank*, and from thence unto the Mouth of the River *Wissey* upon the River *Ouse*, and from thence unto *Helgay Bridge* upon the River *Wissey*, and from thence unto the Uplands



Except Mr.  
Skipwith's  
Ground.

Recite Francis  
Earl of Bedford's Under-  
taking, and to  
have 95000  
Acres.

Indenture of  
Fourteen Parts.

Incorporated.

lands at the End of the Bank of the Grounds late of *Edmond Skipwith*, Esq; deceased, upon the said Bank, and from thence unto *Stoake Bridge* upon the Uplands of *Roxham*, *Deerham*, *Weerham*, *Wretton* and *Stoake* in the said County of *Norfolk*, except the imbanked Grounds late of *Edmond Skipwith*, Esq; lying on the North Side of the River of *Ouse*. And whereas the said *Francis* late Earl of *Bedford* was to have, for his Recompence of effecting that difficult Work, only ninety-five thousand Acres of the said Grounds, with convenient Highways and Passages to the same; and the new Rivers, Cuts and Drains to be made by the said Earl and his Assigns, and the Banks of the same and the Forelands in the inside of the said Banks not to exceed sixty Foot in Breadth, which was a Work of so great and publick Concernment, that his said late Majesty gave great Encouragement to the said *Francis* late Earl of *Bedford* and others, whom he had taken in to be adventurers and Participants with him therein, upon the Covenants, Conditions and Agreements contained and specified in and by a certain Indenture of fourteen Parts, bearing Date the seven and twentieth Day of *February* in the Seventh Year of the Reign of his said late Majesty, and his Royal Assurance to further it by his Concurrence to an Act of Parliament for establishing thereof, and did by Letters Patents under the Great Seal of *England* incorporate the said late Earl, his Adventurers and Participants, to have Succession for ever; and in Order to the effecting thereof, the said late

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late Earl and his Adventurers and Participants bestowed great Sums of Money for perfecting the same; and after his Death, and some Interruptions, *William* now Earl of *Bedford*, Earl William's Son and Heir to the said Earl *Francis*, with Undertaking. divers of his Adventurers and Participants, by Colour of a pretended Act of Parliament Act of May of the nine and twentieth Day of *May* in 1649. the Year of our Lord one thousand six hundred forty and nine, proceeded in the completing and finishing the said Works, and the Commissioners appointed by that pretended Act did adjudge the same drained; but the same cannot be preserved without a perpetual constant Care, great Charge and orderly Government, which being represented to the King's most excellent Majesty that now is, he hath been graciously pleased to declare more than an ordinary Willingness to promote and countenance a Work of so publick Concernment, and many Ways advantageous to this his Kingdom. To the End therefore that a Work of this Nature may receive publick Support and Encouragement:

II. *Be* it enacted by the King's most excellent Majesty, with the Advice and Assent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in this Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That the said *William* Earl of *Bedford*, Son and Heir of the said *Francis* Earl of *Bedford*, and the Adventurers and Participants of the said Earl *Francis* and Earl *William*, or either of them, their Heirs and Assigns, in such Manner as is herein contained, shall be a Body Politick and

Earl William  
and Partici-  
pants incor-  
porated.

and Corporate in Deed and Name, and have Succession for ever, by the Name of the Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Company of Conservators of the Greal Level of the Fens; which Corporation shall consist of one Governor, six Bailiffs, twenty Conservators and Commonalty, and shall have and use a Common Seal to be appointed by themselves, and assemble and meet together, when, where, and as oft as they please, and appoint a Register, Receiver, one or more Serjeants at Mace, and other Officers, and allow them Salaries, and remove them and make new at their Pleasure. And the said *William* Earl of *Bedford* is to be the first Governor; *Richard* Lord *Gorges*, *Sir Richard* *Onslow*, Knight, *Sir William* *Terringham* Knight of the *Bath*, *Samuel* *Sandys*, *Thomas* *Chichely*, and *Samuel* *Fortrey*, Esquires, the first Bailiffs; *Sir Gilbert* *Gerhard* jun. Knight, *William* *Denton*, *William* *Crane*, *Edmond* *Berry-Godfrey*, *Aribur* *Evelyn*, *Samuel* *Smith*, *Roger* *Jennings*, *Robert* *Castle*, *Robert* *Hampson*, *Joseph* *Ayloffe*, Esquires, *Thomas* *Lord* *Culpepper*, *Sir John* *Hewett*, Baronet, *Arthur* *Onslow*, *Robert* *Phillips*, *Anthony* *St. John* Esquires, *Sir Oliver* *St. John*, *Sir Charles* *Harbord*, Knights, *Francis* *Hoblyn*, *Samuel* *Sandys* junior, and *Robert* *Terringham*, Esquires, the first Conservators. And the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators to continue until *Wednesday* in *Whitson* Week in the Year of our Lord one thousand six hundred sixty and four, and from thenceforth until new Elections by the said Corporation, or the major Part which

To continue  
till Whitson-  
week 1664.

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shall be then present; and shall be capable to sue and be sued, and without Licence of Mortmain to purchase Manors, Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, not exceeding two hundred Pounds *per Annum*, and Goods and Chattels, and to dispose thereof in the Name, and to the Use of the said Corporation; and the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators, or any five or more of them; whereof the said Governor or Bailiffs or any of them to be two, shall and may lay Taxes from Time to Time upon all the said ninety-five thousand Acres only for Support, Maintenance and Preservation of the said Great Level, and levy the same with Penalties for Non-payment, not exceeding a third Part of the Tax, and all other Things do in Order to the Support, Maintenance and Preservation of the said Great Level and Works made and to be made.

To sue and be sued.

To purchase Lands.

Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators or any five, whereof Governor and Bailiffs to be two, may lay Taxes.

Penalty not to exceed a third Part.

And all other Things do, relating to the Support, &c.

Earl of Portland's 2000 Acres.

III. **And** whereas by the said Law of Sewers twelve thousand Acres, Parcel of the said ninety five thousand Acres, were designed and intended to his said late Majesty, and were set forth and allotted by Bounds in Severalty, and his said late Majesty was in Possession thereof, and granted, assigned, allotted and set out by Bounds two thousand Acres, Parcel of the said twelve thousand Acres, by Letters Patents, unto *Jerome* Earl of *Portland*, his Heirs and Assigns, of which said two thousand Acres the said Earl of *Portland* hath sold away about one thousand five hundred Acres in several Parcels to several Persons, their Heirs and Assigns, for valuable Considerations,



tions, and the Residue thereof, being about five hundred Acres, hath granted and conveyed unto his Brother *Benjamin Weston*, Esq; and his Heirs, upon several Trusts agreed upon between the said Earl of *Portland* and *Benjamin Weston*, by Writing for that Purpose :

IV. Be it therefore enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said two thousand Acres, or such other Lands of equal Value as shall be set forth in Exchange of the same, in Case the forementioned two thousand Acres, or any Part thereof, shall hereafter be adjudged to have been unduly set out, shall be, and hereby are vested, settled and established in the said several and respective Persons, (to whom the said Earl of *Portland* hath so conveyed or mentioned to convey the same) their Heirs and Assigns respectively, to each Person, his Heirs and Assigns, his and their several and respective Share and Shares, that was so respectively to each of them conveyed or mentioned to be conveyed by the said Earl of *Portland*, to be held or enjoyed by them or each of them, his Heirs and Assigns, his and their own Share and Part only in Severalty, according to the Intent of the said Conveyances thereof to them respectively made by the said Earl of *Portland*; upon the same Trusts nevertheless for and concerning the said five hundred Acres granted or mentioned to be granted to the said *Benjamin Weston*, which the said Earl of *Portland* and *Benjamin Weston* had declared and agreed upon between them as aforesaid : Which said two thousand

Acres

Acres shall be holden of the King's Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, of the Manor of *East-Greenwich*, by Fealty only in free and common Soccage, and not otherwise, and subject nevertheless with the Residue of the ninety-five thousand Acres in equal Proportion to all Taxes and Charges necessary and conducing to the Preservation of the said Great Level from Drowning.

V. And be it further enacted by the 83,000 Acres Authority aforesaid, That the eighty-three thousand Acres Remainder of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, with the said Ways, Passages, new Rivers, Cuts, Drains, Banks and Forelands, over and above the said ten thousand Acres, Residue of the said twelve thousand Acres which were allotted in Severalty, and of which his said late Majesty was in Possession as aforesaid, are hereby vested and settled in the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Company of Conservators of the said Great Level of the Fens, and their Successors: In Trust nevertheless for the said *William* Earl of *Bedford*, and the Adventurers and Participants of the said Earl *Francis* and Earl *William*, or either of them, their Heirs and Assigns, in such Manner and Wise as is herein after more particularly and especially limited and provided; and according to such Parts and Proportions as they respectively now hold and enjoy, or by Virtue and Provision of this Act ought to hold and enjoy, subject and liable likewise to the Payment of all Taxes and Charges as aforesaid, to be holden of the King's Majesty, his Heirs

In Trust for  
William Earl  
of Bedford,  
&c.

To be held in  
Soccage.

10000 Acres  
vested in the  
King, subject  
to Taxes.

Commissioners  
of Sewers  
constituted.

Five or more  
a *Quorum*, Go-  
vernor or Bai-  
liffs to be two.

Heirs and Successors, of the Manor of *East-Greenwich*, by Fealty only in free and common Soccage, and not otherwise: And the said ten thousand Acres, Residue of the said twelve thousand Acres, (whereof his said late Majesty was in Possession as aforesaid) are hereby vested and settled in his Majesty that now is, and his Assigns, subject and liable, with the Residue of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, to the same Taxes and Charges before specified. And because the said Great Level of the Fens extends into the said six Counties, besides the Isle of *Ely*, and so far as much as Commissioners of Sewers cannot legally proceed in Execution of their Commission, but by a several Jury of every County to enquire of the Matters within their Commission in that County, which hath heretofore enforced the said Earl, his Participants and Adventurers, Commissioners and Countries, to very great Trouble, Loss and Expence, both of Money and Time; for avoiding which Inconveniencies, It is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators of the said Corporation for the Time being, or any five or more of them, whereof the said Governor or Bailiffs for the Time being, or their Successors, or any of them, to be two, for Maintenance and Preservation of the said Great Level by convenient Outfalls to the Sea, shall for ever hereafter be, and are hereby made and constituted Commissioners of Sewers for and of the said Great Level of the Fens: And the said Governor, Bailiffs

and

and Conservators, or any five or more of them, whereof the said Governor or Bailiffs; and their Successors, or any of them, to be two, are hereby enabled and impowered from henceforth to use and exercise the Power and Authority of Commissioners of Sewers within the said Great Level of the Fens, and of the Works made or to be made without the said Great Level, for conveying of the Waters of the said Great Level by convenient Outfalls to the Sea, touching all Matters and Things whatsoever happening to be executed or done within the said Great Level, or the said Works without the said Great Level, enquirable, punishable, or to be done by Commissioners of Sewers, and therein to act and proceed by one or more Juries of good and lawful Men, inhabiting within any Part or Place within the Boundaries of the said Great Level of the Fens, though in several Counties, as if the said Great Level of the Fens lay within one of the said Counties only, and shall have Power to imploy the said Serjeants, or any of them for the Time being, by Warrant or Precept from the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators, and their Successors, or any five or more of them, whereof the said Governor or Bailiffs, or any of them, to be two, under the Common Seal of the said Corporation, to summon and return Juries within the Boundaries of any Part of the said Great Level, and execute all Precepts and Process from them, from Time to Time, and all other Things

Within the Level, and Works without.

Proceed by one Jury.

Award Precepts to summon and return Juries.

T 2 do,



Juries to appear.

Try all Matters within the Power of Commissioners of Sewers.

Laws and Customs of Rumney-Marsh.

do, as fully as any Sheriff within his respective County may or can do by Warrant or Precept from Commissioners of Sewers; which Juries are to appear at the Times and Places set or appointed for them to appear before the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators, and their Successors, or any five or more of them, whereof the said Governor and Bailiffs, and their Successors, or any of them, to be two; and are hereby empowered to inquire of, present and try all Matters within the said Great Level, and of and concerning the said Works made or to be made without the said Great Level, for conveying of the Waters of the said Great Level by convenient Outfalls to the Sea, within the Power of Commissioners of Sewers, as if the same lay within any one of the said Counties, or as if the said Great Level were one distinct County of itself: And the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators, or any five or more of them, whereof the said Governor or Bailiffs, or any of them, to be two, shall have further Power, as well for the Maintenance of the said Great Level as for laying and levying of Taxes upon the said ninety-five thousand Acres, to use and exercise, within the said Great Level, such and the like Laws and Customs, and constitute and appoint such and the like Officers, from Time to Time, as are, or lawfully may be used in *Rumney-Marsh* in the County of *Kent*; they who exercise the said Power of Commissioners of Sewers first taking

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taking the Oath which Commissioners of Sewers are by the Law to take, the which Oath the said Governor and Bailiffs, or any of them, are hereby impowered to administer from Time to Time without any further Commission.

VI. **And** because the Metes and Boundaries of the said Grounds within the said Great Level, as to the Counties and Parishes, are very uncertain and hard to be distinguished, Mistakes of Counties, Parishes, &c. supplied. Be it therefore further enacted, That every Writ, Bill, Complaint, Count, Declaration, Information, Presentment and Indictment, of, for, or concerning the said Grounds within the said Great Level of the Fens, or any Part or Parcel of the same, or any Trespass, Offence or Wrong done, acted or committed within the said Great Level, and Proceedings thereupon, shall be good and sufficient in Law, though the County, Parish, Town or Place, or any of them, in such Writ, Bill, Complaint, Count, Declaration, Information, Presentment or Indictment be not rightly named, so as there be such other Certainty or Description of the Place whereby the same is or may be commonly known.

VII. **And** be it further enacted, That no other Commissioners of Sewers shall intermeddle within the said Great Level, or with any the Works made or to be made for Support, Maintenance or Preservation of the said Great Level, within or without the said Great Level, as aforesaid, otherwise than hereafter in this Act shall be provided. No other Commissioners of Sewers to intermeddle.

All Conveyances of the 95000 Acres to be entered and to pass the Freehold.

No Lease, Grant, &c. to be of Force but from Entry, except Leases for seven Years.

To execute Estates.

Taxes Arrear to be levied by Sale.

VIII. And be it further enacted, That all Conveyances by Indenture of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, or any Part thereof, entered within the said Register in a Book to be kept for that Purpose, shall be of equal Force to convey the Freehold and Inheritance of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, or any Part thereof, as if the same Conveyances by Indenture were for valuable Considerations of Money enrolled within six Months in one of the King's Courts of Record at *Westminster*; And no Lease, Grant, or Conveyance of, or Charge out of, or upon the said ninety-five thousand Acres, or any Part thereof, except Leases for seven Years or under, in Possession, shall be of Force but from the Time it shall be entered with the said Register as aforesaid, the Entry whereof being endorsed by the said Register upon such Lease, Grant, Conveyance or Charge, shall be as good and effectual in the Law, as if the original Book of Entries were produced at any Trial at Law, or otherwise.

IX. And be it further enacted, That the said Governor, Pailiffs and Commonalty shall execute Estates according to the aforesaid Trust under their Common Seal, the Taxes and Penalties then in Arrear being first paid, which for Non-payment are by Virtue of this Act to be levied by Sale of the Lands.

X. And be it further enacted, That for the levying such Taxes and Penalties as are now in Arrear, or at any Time since the thirtieth

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thirtieth Day of *September* in the Year of our Lord one thousand six hundred fifty and eight, (other than such as are hereby otherwise directed to be levied) or which shall be set and imposed upon the said ninety-five thousand Acres by Virtue of this Act, and shall be in Arrear upon the respective Parts and Proportions of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators of the said Corporation, and their Successors for the Time being, or any five or more of them, whereof the said Governor and Bailiffs for the Time being, and their Successors, or any of them, to be two, for levying such Taxes and Penalties which now are or shall be so in Arrear, upon the respective Parts and Proportions of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, shall, on *Wednesday* and *Thursday* in *Whitsun* Week, or either of them, every Year at the Shire-House in *Ely* aforesaid in the said Isle of *Ely*, have Power only to sell so much of such Parts and Proportions of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, upon which any Tax shall be in Arrear, or Penalties in such Proportion, as the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators of the said Corporation, or their Successors, or any five or more of them, whereof the said Governor and Bailiffs, or any of them, to be two, shall judge to be sufficient to raise such Taxes and Penalties, by any Writing under the Seal of the said Corporation; and the Person or Persons to whom such Sales shall be made, shall be a

other than,  
*&c.*

*Whitsun*  
 Week to sell.

Lawful Pur-  
 chaser.



lawful Purchaser and Assignee of so much as shall be sold, to all Intents and Purposes whatsoever.

Saving to Tenants to continue.

XI. **Provided**, That by any Colour of any Sale for Non-payment of Taxes, any Tenant or Tenants at Will, or by Lease Indented, upon improved Rent of any Part of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, shall not be removed from his or their Possession, until he or they shall have taken his or their Crop from off the Premises so sold, paying reasonable Rent, proportionable to the Time that such Possession shall from and after such Sales be continued; And such Tenant or Tenants, as shall hold any Part of the said ninety-five thousand Acres by Lease, as aforesaid, shall and may, if he or they shall think meet, continue out their respective Terms, paying their Rent to such Purchaser in Proportion to the Quantity of Acres so purchased; any Thing herein contained to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding: **Provided**, That the said Corporation, nor their Successors, shall not sell any Part or Proportion of the said ninety-five thousand Acres for any Tax or Penalty in Arrear which Tax or Penalties shall not be in Arrear by the Space of four Months next before the Sale, nor any more Lands than only for the raising of such Taxes and Penalties.

To be Arrear four Months before the Sale, and to sell no more than only to raise the Tax and Penalty.

To give Notice of the Parts Arrear.

XII. **Provided** also, That the said Corporation shall give publick Notice from Time to Time of the Parts and Proportions of the said ninety-

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ninety-five thousand Acres, for which any Tax or Penalties is or shall be in Arrear, by affixing openly at the Shire-House or Market-Place in *Ely* aforesaid, a Schedule in Parchment under the Seal of the said Corporation, containing such Parts and Proportions of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, for which any Tax or Penalty is or shall be in Arrear, with the Name and Names of the respective Owner or Owners, entered upon the Tax Roll, with the said Corporation, of the said Parts and Proportions of the said ninety-five thousand Acres so in Arrear.

XIII. **And** be it further enacted, That the said Corporation shall and may, from Time to Time, erect any new Works within the said Great Level or without the said Great Level, for conveying the Waters of the said Great Level by convenient Out-falls to the Sea; so always that if they cut any several Grounds, they give full Recompence and Satisfaction for the same, in such Manner as shall be hereafter in this Act provided. And if any Person or Persons shall cut, throw down, or destroy any of the said Works made or to be made, as aforesaid, the Parties offending shall answer treble Damages to the said Corporation, and Costs of Suit, to be Recovered in an Action of Trespass to be brought by the said Corporation in any of his Majesty's Courts of Record; And if such cutting, throwing down, or destroying, shall be maliciously done, the same shall be punished, as for the cutting the Podyke in Marsh Land.

Corporation may erect new Works within or without the Level.

If cut several Grounds to give Satisfaction.

To destroy Works treble Damages;

if maliciously done, Felony.

XIV.

Officers to be  
sworn.

XIV. And be it further enacted, That the said *William* Earl of *Bedford*, nominated to be Governor, and every other from Time to Time into that Office chosen, shall (before he take upon him or them the Exercise of that Office) take an Oath, That he will well and truly execute that Office in all Things; the which Oath shall and may be administered by the said Bailiffs, or any one of them: And the said Bailiffs, Conservators, Register, Receiver, or other Officer nominated as aforesaid, and every other from Time to Time, into any of the respective Offices to be chosen, shall (before he or they take upon him or them the Exercise of the said respective Offices) take the like Oath for the true Executing their respective Offices; the which Oath shall be administered by the said Governor, Bailiffs, and Conservators, or any two or more of them, without any Commission or further Warrant.

New Elections  
in Whitsun  
Week.

XV. And for the Continuance of the said Corporation in Succession for ever, Be it further enacted, That the said Governor, Bailiffs, Conservators and Commonalty, upon *Wednesday* in *Whitsun* Week yearly, shall at a public Meeting to be holden for the said Corporation by the greater Number then present, (whereof the said Governor, or one of the Bailiffs to be one) elect a new Governor, Bailiffs, and Conservators respectively: Provided, That none be capable to be, or continue Governor or Bailiffs, that hath not four hundred Acres or more of the said ninety-five

Governors  
and Bailiffs to  
have 400  
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five thousand Acres, nor to be Conserva-Conservators  
 nor that hath not two hundred Acres, or <sup>200 Acres.</sup>  
 more, of the said ninety-five thousand Acres,  
 nor any of the Commonalty to have a Voice Commonalty  
 in Elections that hath not one hundred Acres, <sup>100 Acres.</sup>  
 or more, of the said ninety-five thousand  
 Acres. And that the said Governor, Bailiffs  
 and Conservators, or any of them, shall and  
 may be removed by the said Governor, Bai- <sup>May be re-</sup>  
 liffs, and Conservators, and Commonalty, <sup>moved.</sup>  
 or the greater Number of them present at  
 their publick Meetings, whereof the said  
 Governor or one of the Bailiffs to be one,  
 and new chosen in the Place of him or them  
 so dead or removed : And the said Governor,  
 Bailiffs and Commonalty also shall have  
 further Power to have, demand, and receive <sup>To demand</sup>  
 an Accompt from all and every the Officers, <sup>Accompts</sup>  
 Agents, and Servants, their Executors and <sup>from Officers.</sup>  
 Administrators heretofore employed, or here-  
 after to be employed, for the Receiving  
 and Paying of Money for or in Relation  
 to the carrying on of the Works of the  
 Draining of the said Great Level, and shall  
 and may sue for, and recover the same ; and  
 that all Arrears of Rent already incurred <sup>Arrears of</sup>  
 upon or out of any Part of the said ninety- <sup>Rent may be</sup>  
 five thousand Acres upon any Contract or <sup>recovered.</sup>  
 Lease of the said Premisses, or any Part or  
 Parcel thereof, shall be received and reco-  
 vered, as if the said pretended Act had been  
 a good and effectual Act ; And if any Suit  
 be commenced against the said Corporation, or  
 any Person, for any Matter or Thing done in  
 Pursuance of this Act, then he or they shall or  
 may



Plead General  
Issue.

may plead the General Issue, and give the Special Matter in Evidence, upon any Trial to be had touching the same, which shall be as good and effectual in Law, as if the same had been specially pleaded, and the Jury upon the Trial to give a Verdict accordingly.

King to have  
such Title to  
the 83000  
as any Persons  
attainted had.

XVI. **Provided** always, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That as touching and concerning such Part and Parcel of the said eighty-three thousand Acres, whereof any Person or Persons attainted, or that shall be attainted, was or were in Possession at any Time since the nine and twentieth Day of *May* in the Year of our Lord one thousand six hundred forty and nine, under pretended Sales thereof respectively made by colour of the said pretended Act, or under any other Title or pretended Title whatsoever, the King's most Excellent Majesty, his Heirs, Successors and Assigns, shall have the same and like Benefit, Advantage and Interest in all and every the said Parts and Parcels of the said eighty-three thousand Acres, and no other than as the said Persons so attainted, or which shall be attainted, could or ought to have by Virtue of this Act in Case they had not been so attainted, or shall not be attainted. And whereas the Shares, Lots, Parts and Proportions of and in the said ninety-five thousand Acres, which in Pursuance of the said Indenture of Fourteen Parts, and by Virtue or Intention of the said Act and Law of Sewers

made

made at *Lynn*, do belong and appertain to the said *Samuel Sandys* the Elder, or his Trustees, *Sir William Terringham*, *Sir Richard Onslow*, and other the Assignees and Trustees of *Henry* late Earl of *Arundel* and *Surrey* deceased, *Arthur* Earl of *Anglesey*, *Thomas* Lord *Culpepper*, *Robert Phillips*, *Robert Scarwen*, and to divers other Persons, the Participants of the said Earl *Francis*, and Parties to the said Indenture, or their respective Heirs, Executors, Administrators or Assigns, are now possessed and enjoyed by divers Persons, who took, contracted for, or accepted of, or by such who claim and derive their Interest and Title from and under such Persons as did take, contract for, or accept of pretended Estates or Conveyances of the same, made, or pretended to be made by certain Persons mentioned in and by the said pretended Act of the nine and twentieth Day of *May* one thousand six hundred forty and nine, to have Authority to sell the Shares, Lots, Parts and Proportions of such of the Adventurers and Participants of the said Earl *Francis*, and of their respective Heirs and Assigns, as should refuse or make Default of Payment of such Taxes, as should by Colour and in Pursuance of the said pretended Act be imposed upon them respectively, in respect of their Shares and Lots, in or out of the said ninety-five thousand Acres.

Recital of  
Shares sold by  
the Act of  
May 1649.

XVII. *Be* it therefore enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the said Company of Conservators of the said Great Level of the Fens, and Assigns.

Corporation to  
stand seised for  
Sandys and  
other Persons,  
their Heirs  
and Assigns.

Fens, and their Successors, shall actually stand seised and possessed of all and every the Shares, Lots, Parts and Proportions last mentioned, in Trust nevertheless to and for the Use and Behoof of the said *Samuel Sandys* the Elder, or his Trustees in Trust for him, Sir *William Terringham*, Sir *Richard Onslow*, and others the said Assignees and Trustees of *Henry* late Earl of *Arundel* and *Surrey* deceased, *Arthur* Earl of *Anglesey*, *Thomas* Lord *Culpepper*, *Robert Phillips*, *Robert Scawen*, and of their respective Heirs and Assigns, and to and for the respective Uses and Behoofs of the said other Persons, the Participants of the said Earl *Francis*, and Parties to the said Indenture of Fourteen Parts, and of their respective Heirs and Assigns now out of possession of their respective Shares, Lots, Parts and Proportions of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, as heretofore in or about the Month of *October* in the thirteenth Year of the Reign of the late King *Charles* of ever blessed Memory, were respectively allotted, severed, set forth or divided, for or as the respective Shares, Lots, Parts and Proportions of such of the Adventurers, the Participants of the said Earl *Francis*, and Parties to the said Indenture of Fourteen Parts, their respective Heirs, Executors, Administrators and Assigns, from and under whom the said *Samuel Sandys* the Elder, or his Trustees, Sir *William Terringham*, Sir *Richard Onslow*, and others the Assignees and Trustees of *Henry* late Earl of *Arundel* and *Surrey* deceased, *Arthur* Earl of *Anglesey*, *Tho-*

*Thomas Lord Culpepper, Robert Phillips, Robert*  
*Scarwen,* and the said other Persons, the Par-  
 ticipants of the said Earl *Francis*, and their  
 respective Heirs, Executors, Administrators  
 and Assigns, now out of Possession of their  
 respective Shares, Lots, Parts and Propor-  
 tions, do respectively claim and derive their  
 said Shares, Lots, Parts and Proportions;  
 And the said Governor, Bailiffs, and Com-  
 monalty of the Company of Conserva-  
 tors, are hereby authorized and required to  
 execute respective Estates of the said Shares,  
 Lots, Parts and Proportions accordingly,  
 subject and liable nevertheless with the Re-  
 sidue of the said ninety-five thousand Acres,  
 in equal Proportion to all Taxes and Charges  
 to be laid and imposed by Virtue of this Act,  
 for Preservation of the said Great Level from  
 drowning. And whereas the Persons now  
 in Possession of the said last mentioned  
 Shares, Lots, Parts and Proportions of  
 the said ninety-five thousand Acres, where-  
 of pretended Estates and Conveyances were  
 taken, contracted for, or accepted of, as afore-  
 said, do pretend that they or those under  
 whom they do respectively claim and derive  
 their Right, Title or Pretensions to the said  
 Shares, Lots, Parts and Proportions re-  
 spectively, have laid out and disbursed for  
 Taxes for and towards the Maintenance,  
 Preservation and Repair of the Works of  
 the said Great Level heretofore erected by the  
 said Earl *Francis* and his Participants, and  
 for and towards their Erection of new and  
 necessary Works, for the better and more ef-  
 fectual

To execute  
 Estates to  
 them,

as to Purcha-  
 sers under the  
 pretended Act.



fectual Draining of the said Great Level, and for Building upon the said Shares, Lots, Parts and Proportions, more Monies than the clear Rents, Issues and Profits of the said Shares, Lots, Parts and Proportions have amounted to since the said respective pretended Estates and Conveyances were first taken, contracted for or accepted, as aforesaid:

Judicature  
erected to pro-  
ceed by Bill  
and Answer.

XVIII. *Be* it therefore enacted by the Authority aforesaid, and it is hereby enacted, That the Chief Justice of the Court of King's Bench, the Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, the Chief Baron of the Court of Exchequer, and the Justices of the said Court of Common Pleas for the Time being, or any two or more of them, are hereby constituted, appointed, and erected a Judicature, or Commissioners to hear, order, judge, decree and determine upon Bills and Answers, to be exhibited, or otherwise as they shall think fit, between the said Persons who are now in the Possession of the said respective Shares, Lots, Parts and Proportions, and the respective Heirs and Assigns of the said Persons now in Possession, as aforesaid; And the said *Sir Richard Onslow*, and other the said Assignees and Trustees of the said *Henry* late Earl of *Arundel* and *Surrey* deceased, *Arthur* Earl of *Anglesey*, *Thomas* Lord *Culpepper*, the said *Samuel Sandys* the Elder, or his Trustees, *Sir William Terringham*, *Robert Phillips*, *Robert Scarwen*, and the said other Persons Participants of the said Earl *Francis*, and their respective Heirs and Assigns,

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Assigns, who are now out of the Possession of the said Shares, Lots, Parts and Proportions respectively, and to whom respective Estates are, by Virtue of this Act, to be executed of the same, as aforesaid; And the said Judicature or Commissioners, or any two or more of them are hereby authorized out of the said Shares, Lots, Parts and Proportions, to order, adjudge, decree and determine to either of the said Parties respectively, such Recompence and Allowance as they the said Judicature or Commissioners, or any two or more of them shall see Cause. And for the better enabling the said Judicature or Commissioners to proceed to the hearing, ordering, adjudging, decreeing and determining, and for putting in due and speedy Execution such Order, Judgment, Decree and Determination, as they or any two or more of them shall make between the said Parties;

Any two Commissioners to adjudge to either Party.

XIX. It is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That they the said Judicature or Commissioners, or any two or more of them, shall have such and the like Power and Authority, as the High Court of Chancery hath in Cases before the said Court depending, and for putting in Execution the Decrees of the said Court. And to the End that the said Judicature may be the better enabled to judge of the Rights and Pretensions of either Party;

Power of the Court of Chancery.

XX. Be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That in every Decree or Determination which they shall make by Virtue of this Act, they shall have Respect to Monies expended by either Party.

Abating Pro-  
fits received,  
and Interest.

After six  
Months may  
bring Actions  
although  
Estates not  
executed.

and in Pursuance of this Act, they shall have  
Regard to the Sum and Sums of Money  
actually disbursed and expended by either  
Party in the Works of Draining the said  
Great Level, and in the Preservation and Re-  
paration of the same; and also to the respec-  
tive Times of such Disbursements and Ex-  
pence, defalking thereout such Sum and Sums  
Money as have been received by either Par-  
ty, their Tenants or Assigns, for the Rents,  
Issues and Profits of the same, and abating  
out of the Interest of the Money disbursed  
by either Party, so much as the Interest of  
the Money received by such Party, for the  
Rents, Issues and Profits of the same doth  
amount unto. And to the Intent that the  
Persons, who by the true Intent and Meaning  
of this Act are to be put in Possession of any  
Part of the said eighty-three thousand Acres,  
may not, by undue Delays, or by any other  
Means or Pretensions, be kept out of the Pos-  
session of the same;

XXI. *Be* it further enacted by the Au-  
thority aforesaid, That at any Time or Times,  
after the Expiration of six Months after the  
Passing of this Act, it shall and may be  
lawful to and for the said *Samuel Sandys* the  
Elder, and his Trustees for him, *Sir Richard*  
*Onslow*, and others the Assignees and Trus-  
tees of *Henry* late Earl of *Arrundel* and *Surry*  
deceased, *Arthur* Earl of *Anglesey*, *Thomas*  
*Lord Culpepper*, *Sir William Terringham*, *Ro-*  
*bert Phillips* and *Robert Scawen*, their and eve-  
ry of their respective Heirs and Assigns, and  
to and for the Participants of the said Earl  
*Francis*,

*Francis*, Parties to the said Indenture of Fourteen Parts, their and every of their respective Heirs and Assigns, whose Lands, Shares, Lots, Parts and Proportions of and in the said ninety-five thousand Acres, were sold, or pretended to be sold, for Non-payment of Taxes, by Virtue of the said pretended Act of the nine and twentieth Day of *May* in the Year of our Lord one thousand six hundred forty and nine, to bring their respective Action or Actions of Trespass, or Trespass and Ejectment, in his Majesty's Court of King's Bench, or Court of Common Pleas at *Westminster*, against any Person or Persons whatsoever, possessing, withholding, or occupying the same, although the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators, or so many and such of them as are thereunto authorized by this present Act, have not or shall not execute Estates pursuant to this present Act, to such Person or Persons hereby enabled to bring such Action or Actions; and such Person or Persons shall recover such Lands, Shares, Lots, Parts and Proportions of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, as they respectively shall make and derive Title and Claim unto, as Participants of the said *Francis* Earl of *Bedford*, Parties to the said Indenture of Fourteen Parts, or as the respective Heirs or Assigns of the said respective Participants, Parties to the said Indenture of Fourteen Parts, as if the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators had duly executed respective Estates of such respective Lands, Shares, Governor, Bailiff and Conservators, or so many or such of them as are thereunto authorized.

Claim under Fourteen Parts Indenture,

as if the Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators had duly executed Estates.



Shares, Lots, Parts and Proportions of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, according to the true Intent and Meaning of this Act. And such Person or Persons, his and his Heirs, their respective Heirs and Assigns, shall have and hold the same Lands, Shares, Lots, Parts and Proportions, as fully and effectually as if the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators had executed respective Estates thereof, subject nevertheless to such Decree as the said Judicature or Commissioners before nominated and appointed shall make touching or concerning the Premises, and also subject to the Payment of all Taxes to be laid and imposed by Virtue of this Act, and no other. And whereas there are several Sums of Money amounting to four thousand Pounds or thereabouts, in Arrear for Taxes laid and imposed since the nine and twentieth Day of *September* in the Year of our Lord one thousand six hundred fifty and eight, upon several Parts of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, subjected by this Act to the Judicature aforesaid, and for Penalties incurred for Non-payment of the same, by Virtue or Colour of some Act or Authority, or pretended Act or Authority ;

Hold as if the Governor, Bailiffs, and Conservators, had executed Estates subject to the Indenture.

Taxes Arrear upon Lands in Dispute.

Commissioners to direct who shall pay Taxes.

XXII. Be it therefore enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Commissioners or Judicatory, or any two of them aforesaid, shall have Power and Authority, and are hereby required, in such Adjudication as they shall make touching the Lands sub-

jected

jected to their Judicature as aforesaid, to direct, order and decree, upon what Persons or Lands, the said Sums of Money so in Arrear for Taxes and Penalties as aforesaid, shall be charged, and the said Taxes and Penalties shall be accordingly levied upon such Persons or Lands, and in such Manner, and by such Ways and Means as shall be directed, ordered and decreed by the Judicature aforesaid, or any two of them; And as if such Direction, Order and Decree had been particularly hereby enacted.

XXIII. And whereas particular Persons <sup>Complaints</sup> and Parishes do conceive and alledge, That <sup>recited.</sup>

the Draining of one Place hath drowned and made worse the Lands in other Places:

And whereas divers Persons likewise do alledge and complain, That the said ninety-five thousand Acres in many Places are not indifferently set out or allotted according to the Law made at *Lynn* in the sixth Year of the late King *Charles*, nor according to Agreement made with the Country; but in many Places greater Quantities have been taken from the Owners, Commoners, and Townships than ought to have been; and that some Lands have been taken as belonging to one Parish and County, which in Truth did belong to another; and in many Places the Allotments have been taken very inconvenient for the Townships, which ought not to have been by the said Agreement: And whereas

Without Pre-judice to the Draining aforesaid, and future Maintenance

tenance of the said Great Level ought to be without Prejudice to Navigation: And because all Complaints which have been made, and all Prejudices which have been or shall be done to particular Persons, Parishes and Places, cannot by this Act be sufficiently provided for and remedied;

Commissioners.

XXIV. Be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That Sir *John Tracy*, Knight, Sir *Charles Mordant*, Sir *Nicholas L'Strange*, Baronets, Sir *William Hovel*, Knight, *Edward Pepis*, *Humphrey Beddingfield*, *Nicholas Stileman*, Esquires, for the County of *Norfolk*;

Sir *Nicholas Bacon*, Knight of the Bath, Sir *Lyonel Tolimach*, Baronet, Sir *John Duncombe*, Knight, Sir *Edmond Pooley*, Knight, Sir *George Reve*, Knight and Baronet, Sir *George Weneve*, Knight, *Thomas Waldgrave*, Esq; for the County of *Suffolk*;

Sir *Dudley North*, Sir *Thomas Wendy*, Knights of the Bath, *Levinus Bennet*, Esq; *Robert King*, *John Pepis*, Doctors of the Law, *Thomas Crouch*, *Francis North*, Esquires, for the County of *Cambridge*;

Sir *Thomas Sclater*, Baronet, *L'Strange Colthrop*, *John Millicent*, *Thomas Hall*, *John Sotheby*, Esquires, *John Bing*, Esq; and *William Wren*, Esq; for the Isle of *Ely*;

Sir *Francis Compton*, Knight, *Robert Appreece*, *Sutton Ashfield*, Esquires, *Anthony South*, Doctor of the Law, *Robert Payne*, *Richard Nayler*, — *Ferrers of Gedding*, Esquires, for the County of *Huntingdon*;

Sir

Sir *William Dudley*, Knight and Baronet, *Maurice Tresham*, *Francis Kirkham*, *Lewis Palmer*, *Christopher Thursby*, *Francis Lane*, *George Tresham*, Esquires, for the County of *Northampton*;

Sir *Charles Hussey*, Sir *John Newton*, Baronet, Sir *Thomas Meeres*, Sir *Anthony Irby*, Knights, Sir *Anthony Oldfield*, Baronet, *Richard Brownlow*, *Daniel Rhodes*, Esquires, for the County of *Lincoln*, shall be and are hereby made and constituted the present Commissioners for the Purposes herein mentioned.

XXV. **And** for the supplying the Number of the Commissioners of the said respective Counties, in Case of Death or other Avoidance, or Incapacity; Be it also enacted, That within three Months after such Death or Notice of such Avoidance or Incapacity of the remaining Commissioners of each respective County, of which such Commissioners who died or became incapable were, or the major Part of them, shall from Time to Time nominate and appoint, by Deed under their Hands and Seals, to be enrolled in *Chancery*, some other Person or Persons residing within the said County of which the said Commissioners who died or became incapable were, to be Commissioners in the Place and Stead of him or them so dying or becoming incapable, which said Commissioners hereby constituted, or hereafter to be constituted in Manner aforesaid, or any seven or more of them be, are and shall be hereby authorized and impowered from Time to Time to hear and determine such Complaints, Controversies, Differences and

To supply Defects of Commissioners.

Seven or more to hear Complaints,



as is herein  
expressed.

Before Septem-  
ber 1666, to  
give Satisfacti-  
on for Lands,  
or Interest,  
made worse  
since May  
1663, than in  
6 Car.

Quality or  
Condition.

Grievances as are in this Act expressed (re-  
lating to, or concerning, or occasioned by the  
Draining and Maintaining the said Great Level)  
of any Parish or Township, or of any Person  
or Persons, as well within or without the said  
Level, in such Manner as is herein after ex-  
pressed; And that the said Commissioners  
hereby constituted, or hereafter to be consti-  
tuted in Manner aforesaid, or any seven or  
more of them, shall from Time to Time have  
Power and Authority, and are hereby required,  
at or before the eight and twentieth Day of  
*September* which shall be in the Year of our  
Lord one thousand six hundred sixty and six,  
to give or make Satisfaction out of the said  
ninety-five thousand Acres, to such Parish or  
Township, Person or Persons, whose Lands or  
Interest therein, either within or without the  
said Level, shall, after the first Day of *May*  
one thousand six hundred sixty and three, be  
made worse in Quality or Condition by the  
aforesaid Draining or Works, than they were  
before the Undertaking the Draining of the  
said Level, in the sixth Year of the Reign  
of our late King *Charles* of Blessed Me-  
mory, and proportionable to the Losses the  
Owners of or Persons interested in such Lands  
shall hereafter receive, by reason of their  
Lands being made worse in Quality or Con-  
dition by any such Works and Draining as  
aforesaid, and shall also have Power, at any  
Time within four Years from the four and  
twentieth Day of *June* in the Year of our  
Lord one thousand six hundred sixty and  
three, to alter, change and restore such Parts

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and Parcels of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, as shall upon Complaint be found and adjudged by the said Commissioners, or any seven or more of them, to be unequally, unduly, or inconveniently set forth, by reason of any allotting either of greater Quantities, or as belonging to other Counties, Parishes or Manors, or in more inconvenient Places than they were formerly allotted and set out by a Law of Sewers made at *St. Ives* the twelfth Day of *October* in the thirteenth Year of the Reign of King *Charles* the First, notwithstanding any Vesting of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, or any Part thereof in the King's Majesty, or in the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty, or in any other Persons before-mentioned, or any Estates executed by them or any of them.

Restore Pro-  
portions set  
out contrary  
to *St. Ives's*  
Law.

*St. Ives.*

**Provided**, and be it enacted, That ninety-three Acres in *Raveley* and *Upwood*, seventy-six Acres in *Sotbery*, forty-four Acres and one Rood in *Wicken*, eighty-eight Acres in *Cowfenn*, two hundred eighty-two Acres in *Beezling*, and thirty-seven Acres in *Upwell*, set out to be enjoyed as Part of the said ninety-five thousand Acres since the making the said Law of *St. Ives*, in lieu of like Proportions altered and restored to the Country, shall be held and enjoyed by the said Corporation; subject nevertheless to the Trust in and by this Act declared, as to the said eighty-three thousand Acres, Residue of the said ninety-five thousand Acres; and shall set forth to the said Corporation, in Trust for the Participants or Adventurers, whose Proportion shall be so altered or exchanged in lieu of such Part as shall be so altered, exchanged or restored,

Alterations by  
Commissioners  
excepted.

To set out  
other Propor-  
tions where  
any Altera-  
tions.

such

such other Proportions in such other Places within the said Level, as to the said Commissioners, or any seven or more of them, shall seem just and reasonable, according to the Proportions and Places which ought and might have been by *Lynn* and *St. Ives* Law aforelaid to be held and enjoyed of the Manor of *East-Greenwich*, to the End there may be no Diminution of the said ninety-five thousand Acres; And where it shall appear, upon Complaint of the said Corporation before the said Commissioners or any seven or more of them, that any of the Proportions of the said ninety-five thousand Acres heretofore set forth to *Francis* Earl of *Bedford*, his then Participants and Assigns, do fall short in the Quantity of Acres for which the same were set forth and allotted, according to the said Laws of *Lynn* and *St. Ives*, the said Commissioners or any seven or more of them shall, within the said Term of four Years aforelaid, appoint the same to be supplied and made up out of the Grounds where the same was so allotted to be set forth, to make up the said Proportion of ninety-five thousand Acres. And in Case the said Earl of *Bedford*, and his Participants, or the said Corporation, shall through or by reason of their Undertaking or Draining aforelaid, in the sixth Year of his late Majesty's Reign of ever Blessed Memory, have done or hereafter shall do any Act, or Acts, to the

Navigation if  
made worse,  
6 Car.

Prejudice of Navigation, and whereby Navigation in the said Rivers of *Ouse* and *Grant*, and all other Rivers now Navigable, passing through the said Level, and the River of *West-*  
*water,*

water, being a Branch of the River of Ouse, if it be consistent with the Draining, or in any of them, or such Drove-ways or Bridges within and without the said Level, as have been made or caused to be made by the Adventurers, and have been by them maintained, unless there be some Agreement to the contrary, be or hereafter shall be interrupted, obstructed and made worse, that then the said Commissioners, or any seven or more of them, whereof the Vice-chancellor for the University of Cambridge, the Mayor of the Town of Cambridge, and the Mayor of the Town of King's Lynn, for the Time being, to be three, if they upon Notice left at their respective Habitations shall think fit to be present, from Time to Time, shall and may decree the same to be made good and amended, at the proper Costs and Charges of the said Corporation, within a convenient Time as to their Judgments shall seem meet: And in Case it shall happen and so fall out, that the said Corporation shall neglect or refuse to repair and make good the same, according to the Order and Decree of the said Commissioners and within the Time limited by them, that then it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Commissioners, or any seven or more of them, by Warrant under their Hands and Seals attested, to tax the said ninety-five thousand Acres in such Sum and Sums of Money as in their Judgments shall seem meet, for the making, preserving and keeping the Navigation in any of the aforesaid Rivers, as the same was in the said sixth Year of the said King Charles the First; which said Sum

Drove-ways or Bridges, if obstructed, interrupted or made worse,

Commissioners may decree to be amended, at the Charges of the Corporation.

Upon Refusal, to tax the 95000 Acres, for preserving of Navigation, as 6 Ca..



Sum or Sums of Money, so to be assessed or taxed by the Commissioners aforesaid, shall, within twenty Days next after Notice thereof given to the Governor or Treasurer of the said Corporation, be paid unto such Person or Persons as the said Commissioners shall nominate and appoint to receive the same. And in Case the said Governor or Treasurer of the said Corporation, after Notice so given as aforesaid, shall refuse or neglect to pay the said Sum or Sums as aforesaid, That then the said Commissioners, or any seven or more of them, shall have full Power and Authority to empower the said Person or Persons to levy the said Sum or Sums of Money by Distress or Distresses to be taken upon the said ninety-five thousand Acres, or any Part thereof, and to make Sale of the said Distress or Distresses so taken, and sell the same, and render the Overplus unto the said Governor or Treasurer, deducting the reasonable Charges for their Labour and Pains therein; All which said Sum or Sums of Money so to be taxed and levied by the Authority aforesaid, shall be expended and laid out in preserving and keeping the said Navigation as aforesaid, and maintaining the same according to the true Intent and Meaning of this Statute, and not otherwise. And the said Commissioners, or any seven or more of them, are also hereby empowered and authorized, within the Space of four Years from the four and twentieth Day of *June* in the Year of our Lord one thousand six hundred sixty and three, to ascertain and divide the Precincts and Boundaries of such Parts of the said respective Counties, Lord-

Upon Refusal  
to pay, may  
distrain upon  
any Part of the  
95000 Acres.

Money to be  
laid out to pre-  
serve Naviga-  
tion.

To ascertain  
Bounds of  
Counties,  
&c.

Ships,

ships, Manors and Parishes within the said Level, as have been by and since the Undertaking defaced and made obscure, or by some other Means remain uncertain and hard to be found out, and shall set down such Bounds and Divisions in Writing, by such Marks, Boundaries and Descriptions as to them shall seem meet, and shall certify the same under their Hands and Seals in the High Court of Chancery, according to which Division of the said

Certify into  
the Chancery.

Commissioners, or any seven or more of them, the Extent of the said respective Counties, Lordships, Manors and Parishes in such Places so bounded and divided, shall for ever after the said Certificate be deemed to be and none other: And in Case the Quantity of eight thousand Acres lying together or near together, or any greater Quantity of Ground lying together, or near together within the said Level, shall become drowned, and so continue for the Space of twelve Months together, That then it shall be lawful for the said Commissioners for the Time being, or any seven or more of them, from Time to Time and at all Times, to assess Taxes or Sums of Money upon the said ninety-five thousand Acres, for the raising Money for draining the same again, in such Proportion as they, or any seven or more of them, shall think fit, together with a Penalty for not paying the said Taxes, the said Penalty not exceeding a third Part of such Tax.

If 8000 Acres  
drowned  
twelve  
Months,

Commissioners  
may lay Taxes  
upon the  
95000 Acres.

XXVII. And for Default of Payment of Sequester for the said Taxes or Sums of Money and Penalties, Be it enacted, That the Lot and Share of such Participant or Adventurer of and within the

the

the said ninety-five thousand Acres, as shall be in Arrear for the said Tax, Sum of Money, or Penalty, and unpaid by Space of two Months next after the Day appointed for Payment by the said Commissioners, or any seven or more of them, or so much thereof as they shall think fit, shall be sequestered by the said Commissioners, or any seven or more of them, for or towards the Payment of such Tax, Sum of Money, or Penalty so in Arrear, restoring the Overplus of the Money, for which such Lot or Share or any Part thereof shall be sequestered, if any be: Which Sequestration shall be made in Writing under the Hands and Seals of the said Commissioners for the Time being, or any seven or more of them.

For particular  
Adventurers  
distrained.

XXVIII. **Provided** always, and be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That in Case the said Governor, Bailiffs and Corporation constituted by this Act, shall neglect or refuse to pay such Tax or Taxes and Penalties, Sum or Sums of Money, as shall from Time to Time hereafter be taxed and imposed by the said Commissioners before named or to be named by Virtue of this Act, or any seven or more of them, pursuant to the Powers given them by this Act; whereupon the Goods and Chattels of any Person or Persons, his or their Tenant or Tenants, of and in the said ninety-five thousand Acres, or any Part thereof, shall be distrained or sold, or his or their Lands sequestered for the Payment thereof, or that such Person or Persons, his or their Tenant or Tenants, shall thereupon pay the said Tax and Taxes

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Taxes and Penalties so assessed and imposed as  
aforesaid, That then the said Governor, Bailiffs  
and Corporation, immediately from and after  
Notice to him or them given thereof, shall  
assess and tax the whole ninety-five thousand  
Acres for the Satisfaction and Payment of the  
Tax, Taxes and Penalties, Sum and Sums  
of Money, and all Damages, that such Per-  
son or Persons, his or their Tenant or Te-  
nants hath or have paid, born or sustained as  
aforesaid.

XXIX. **And** be it further enacted by the  
Authority aforesaid, That if the said Gover-  
nor, Bailiffs and Corporation shall not, within  
six Months next after Demand made by such  
Person or Persons, his and their Heirs, Exe-  
cutors and Administrators, whose own, or Te-  
nant or Tenants Goods and Chattels shall be  
distraigned or sold, or Lands sequestered as  
aforesaid, pay and satisfy unto him or them  
such Sum and Sums of Money, and Damages,  
as he or they, or his and their respective  
Tenant or Tenants have respectively paid,  
born and sustained, that then and from  
thenceforth such Person and Persons, his and  
their Heirs and Assigns, shall and may  
bring his and their Action or Actions of  
Debt in any of the King's Majesty's Courts  
at *Westminster*, against the said Governor, Bai-  
liffs and Corporation, for the Recovery there-  
of, and by Virtue of this Act shall recover the  
same, and be allowed Costs of Suit expended  
therein.

For Default of  
Payment, Ac-  
tion of Debt  
against the  
Corporation.

XXX. **And** be it further enacted by the  
Authority aforesaid, That the Commissioners  
may swear  
so Witnesses.



so constituted or to be hereafter constituted as  
aforesaid, or any seven or more of them, for  
the better Execution of the Powers hereby gi-  
ven, shall and may inform themselves by ex-  
amining Witnesses upon Oath, which hereby  
they, or any seven or more of them, shall have  
Power to administer due Execution of all; every  
or any the Powers or Authorities hereby given  
them, and for the doing Justice therein ac-  
cordingly.

No Commis-  
sioners to act till  
sworn.

XXXI. *Provided* always, That the said  
Commissioners and every of them, before he  
or they take upon him or them the Execution  
of any the Powers or Authorities hereby given  
them, other than the Administring the Oath  
following to one another, which they shall  
have Authority by this present Act to admini-  
ster to one another, shall take the Oath fol-  
lowing (*viz.*)

*I A. B. shall and will, without Favour or  
Affection, Hatred or Malice, truly and im-  
partially, according to the best of my Skill and  
Knowledge, execute and perform all and every the  
Powers and Authorities established by this Act of  
Parliament.*

Which Oath any one of the said Com-  
missioners are hereby authorized to admini-  
ster.

Commissioners  
Judgment to  
be final.

XXXII. *And* be it further enacted by the  
Authority aforesaid, That all Judgments, Or-  
ders, Decrees, Determinations, Alterations,  
Changes, Restorations, and other Acts done  
by the said Commissioners hereby constituted

or

or hereafter to be constituted as aforesaid, or of any seven or more of them respectively, pursuant to the Powers and Authorities by this Act given, shall be final; and that the first Time and Place of their Meeting shall be at or before the two and twentieth Day of *September* in the Year of our Lord one thousand six hundred sixty and three, at *Ely*.

XXXIII. And that afterwards the usual Places of Places where the said Commissioners shall sit Commissioners to hear, order and determine the Matters to Meeting.

them referred by this Act, shall, from the nine and twentieth Day of *September* to the six and twentieth Day of *March* in every Year, be at the Town of *Huntingdon*; and, from the five and twentieth Day of *March* till the thirtieth Day of *September* in every Year, be at *Ely*, unless the said Commissioners hereby con-

stituted, or hereafter to be constituted as aforesaid, or any seven or more of them, shall appoint some other Place or Places, being a Market Town or Towns; And the said Commissioners, or any seven or more of them, shall, by Warrant under their Hands and Seals,

declare the Places and Times of their After-Meeting, which Warrant shall be published in the open Market of such respective Places Publish their Meeting a Month before;

where they last sat, between the Hours of twelve and two, upon some Market Day, one Month at the least before the said Time or Times of Meeting; To the End all Persons concerned may have sufficient Time and Notice to make their Appearance before them upon any Cause of Complaint, or other Occasion; And shall have Power and Au-

thority, by Warrant under the Hands and Seals of any seven or more of them, to summon Parties and Witnesses to appear before them.

Commissioners  
not to vote in  
Bounds of  
their Counties.

XXXIV. **Provided**, That none of the said Commissioners hereby constituted, or hereafter to be constituted as aforesaid, shall vote or give his Judgment or Determination in any Matter or Thing which concerns the Division or Bounds of the County, of or for which he is appointed Commissioner.

XXXV. **Provided** also, That no Person who hath any Part, Share or Interest in Possession, or Reversion of or in any Manors or Lands within the said Level, shall be a Commissioner.

XXXVI. **And** in Case of Descent, Gift, Devise or Purchase of any such Part, Share or Interest to or by any of the said Commissioners, It is hereby declared and enacted, That immediately after such Descent, Gift, Devise or Purchase to or by any such Commissioner, the said Descent, Gift, Devise or Purchase shall be an Avoidance of his being a Commissioner; and shall make him be incapable of being again nominated or appointed a Commissioner, whilst his Interest doth remain.

Make Satisfac-  
tion for  
Lands pejo-  
rated by new  
Works.

XXXVII. **Provided** also, and the said Commissioners for the Time being, or any seven or more of them, shall from Time to Time and at all Times have Power and Authority to give and make Satisfaction, out of the ninety-five thousand Acres, to such Person or Persons whose Lands or Interest therein (by any new Works hereafter to be made by the said Corporation without the said Level) for conveying of the Waters of the said Level

by convenient Outfalls to the Sea) shall be made worse in Quality, Condition or Value, than they were before the said Undertaking in the said sixth Year of the said late King *Charles*, proportionable to the Loss and Damage the Parties shall receive thereby.

XXXVIII. **And** to the End that the Owners of the Commons and Wastes in the said Level, and other Towns, Parishes and Places unto which the Works aforesaid or any of them do extend, may improve the same by making Divisions and Inclosures; Be it provided and enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful for any Person or Persons, Body Politick or Corporate whatsoever, their Heirs and Successors, that are or shall be Lords of Manors, or have or shall have Right of Common in the said Wastes, to improve, set out, inclose, divide and sever such Proportion or Proportions as to them shall or may severally or respectively belong or appertain, or be adjudged and allotted out of the said Commons and Wastes within the said Level, or within any Town, Parish or Place into which the Works aforesaid or any of them do extend; and to hold such Proportion in Severalty at all Times of the Year; and all Differences that shall arise concerning the Boundaries of the Wastes, Rights of Common, Improvements, Allotments, Divisions and Inclosures, shall from Time to Time and at all Times be determined, adjudged and finally ended by the said Commissioners for the Time being, or any seven or more of them, upon their View, or Examination of Witnesses upon

Owners of  
Wastes may  
improve.

View or Exa-  
mination of  
Witnesses,



to be certified  
into the Petty  
Bag.

Tenures as  
formerly.

Pay Rents, &c.

Sutton Mead-  
lands.

Oath, which they are hereby authorized to administer, or upon both, and hearing of the Parties concerned, by their Adjudication under their Hands and Seals in Writing, which Determination and Judgment being certified into the Petty Bag, there to be filed and kept on Record, shall be final and conclusive unto all Parties: And the Allotments, Divisions and Proportions, so adjudged or decreed to be held by the said respective Persons to whom they are so set out, shall be held by him or them, and his and their Heirs, Executors and Assigns respectively, according to his or their Tenure or Tenures, Estate, Title or Interest they had in the Manors, Tenements and Lands, for which they claimed the said Proportions of Common as aforesaid; Paying such Fines and Rents, and doing such Services in Proportion for the same, as by Custom or otherways they are to pay or do, and do for the Manors, Tenements and Lands for which they claim the same Proportion, having such Respect to the yearly Values of the one and the other, as shall (if Need so require) be limited by seven or more of the Commissioners.

**XXXIX. Provided** also, and be it enacted, That it shall and may be lawful to and for such Person and Persons (as were heretofore Owners of the one hundred seventy-five Acres in *Sutton*, North and South *Meadlands* in the said Isle of *Ely*, set out by the said Law of *St. Ives*, as a Recompence for draining the whole North and South *Meadlands*, containing about one thousand Acres,) their Heirs or Assigns, to sue and implead before the said Com-

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Commissioners or any seven or more of them, the Owners and Occupiers of the said North and South *Meadlands*, or elsewhere within the said Great Level, to draw them into Contribution for their several and respective Proportions of the said North and South *Meadlands*, towards the said one hundred seventy-five Acres: And the said Commissioners, or any seven or more of them, shall thereupon adjudge and decree unto the said Owners of the said one hundred seventy-five Acres, or such of them as they shall think fit, and to their Heirs and Assigns, such Recompence and Satisfaction, either in ready Money, yearly Rent or Land, out of the Residue of the said North and South *Meadlands*, as to the said Commissioners, or any seven or more of them shall seem meet, to be held and enjoyed by the said Owners of the said one hundred seventy-five Acres, their Heirs and Assigns.

XL. **Provided** always, and be it enacted, *Londoners* That it shall and may be lawful to and for Sir *Fen*.

*John Watts*, Knight, and others who derive any Interest under the Drainers of that *Fen* called *Londoners Fen*, his and their Heirs and Assigns, to sue and implead all and every Person and Persons, their Executors and Administrators, that have taken and received the Rents and Profits of his or their Share and Proportion of *Londoners Fen*, remaining from the Share and Proportion allotted and set out by the said Law of *St. Ives*, since the said Level was adjudged drained, and to sue for and recover the same in any of his Majesty's Courts at *Westminster*; And also that it shall and may

be lawful to and for the said Sir *John Watts*, and the Participants aforesaid, his and their Heirs and Assigns, heretofore Owners of the several Proportions in *Londoners Fen*, set out by *St. Ives Law* for the Adventurers Recompence for Draining the Low Grounds in *Upwell*, *Outwell*, and *Welney*, to pursue and prosecute before the said Commissioners, or any seven or more of them, their Claim, and sue for Relief against the Owners or Occupiers of the fenny and low surrounded Grounds lying in *Upwell*, *Outwell*, and *Welney* aforesaid, whose Grounds did not all contribute, or not in equal Proportion, to the said ninety-five thousand Acres, to draw them into Contribution in Ease of the said Sir *John Watts*, and the Participants aforesaid, and thereupon the said Commissioners, or any seven or more of them, are hereby impowered to adjudge and decree unto the said Sir *John Watts*, and the Participants aforesaid, his and their Heirs and Assigns, such Proportion out of the said Grounds, which have not equally contributed as aforesaid, as to the said Commissioners, or any seven or more, shall seem meet.

Doufedale  
Bank.

**XLI.** *Provided* always, and be it enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the King's Majesty and the Queen's Majesty, their Heirs, Successors and Assigns, to continue in the Possession, Usage and Disposal of the Bank called *Doufedale Bank*, being on the South Side of his Majesty's Demean Lands called *Portland*, belonging to their Manor of *Crowland*, being Part thereof, and to have such antient Passages and Currents as of Right have been used and accustomed

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accustomed for the Avoidance of Water through the same into the River *South-Eae*, as if this Act had never been made.

XLII. **Provided** always, and be it enacted <sup>Bodies Politick</sup> by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and to demise. may be lawful to and for every Archbishop, Bishop, Dean and Chapter, and all Colleges and Halls in either University, and all Bodies Politick and Corporate, who are or shall be Lords of Manors, or have or shall have Right of Soil or Common in the Wastes within this said Level, or within such other Towns, Parishes and Places into which the Works of the Draining aforesaid do or shall extend, and who are by this Act impowered to improve, set out, inclose, divide and sever such Proportion or Proportions, as to them shall or may respectively belong or appertain out of the said Commons and Wastes within the said Level, to demise, by Indenture, all and every the said such Proportion or Proportions, as to them shall or may respectively belong or appertain out of the said Commons or Wastes within the said Level, which have not by express Words, and under any particular Rent, been at any Time formerly demised for any Term or Number of Years not exceeding one and twenty Years, so as upon every such Demise or Lease be reserved the fourth Part of the true yearly Value, to be ascertained by the Commissioners aforesaid, or any seven of them, due and payable yearly during the said Term, to him or them, and his and their Successors.



Mr. Chicheley.

**XLIII.** *Provided* always, and be it declared by and with the Consent of all Parties concerned, That neither this Act, nor any Thing therein contained, shall extend or be construed to extend to alter the Possession of *Thomas Chicheley*, Esq; of or from six hundred seventy-one Acres, Parcel of the Lot now claimed to belong to the said Trustees of *Henry* late Earl of *Arundel* and *Surry*, and two hundred thirty-one Acres, Parcel of the Lot now claimed to belong to the said Sir *William Terringham*, or from any Part thereof, by him the said *Thomas Chicheley* now enjoyed under Purchasers by Sales, for Non-payment of Taxes upon the Dispute between the old and new Adventurers; but that the said Corporation shall execute Conveyances of the said respective Proportion unto the said *Thomas Chicheley*, his Heirs and Assigns; any Thing herein contained to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

Rights of  
Lords for  
Waifes, &c.

**XLIV.** *Provided* always, and be it enacted, That all such Right or Rights, as any Lord or Lords of any Manor or Manors, Liberties, Hundred or Half-hundred, have heretofore had within their respective Manor or Manors, Liberties, Hundred or Half-hundred, within or without the said Level, to Waifes, Strays, Felons Goods, Privileges of Arrests, Escheats, and all other Royalties, not prejudicial to the Draining, be hereby saved to them, their Heirs, Successors and Assigns, severally and respectively; any Thing in this Act to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

XLV.

XLV. **Provided** always, That this Act, Waldersea, or any Thing therein contained, shall not be interpreted to infringe or any Way to weaken an Act made the fourth Year of the Reign of King James, intituled, *An Act for the Draining of certain Fens and Low Grounds within the Isle of Ely, subject to Hurt by surrounding, containing about six thousand Acres, compassed about with certain Banks commonly called and named the Ring of Waldersea and Coldham*; but the said Act shall stand in full Force and Virtue; any Thing in this present Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

XLVI. **Provided** also, That whereas Lands cut: divers Lands, in and near adjoining unto the said Great Level, have been cut through for the better conveying of the Waters from the same, and for upholding or repairing the Banks and Works there, without making Satisfaction to the respective Owners of the said Lands, for the Damage they have sustained by such Cutting, Be it further enacted, That the said Commissioners for the Time being, or any seven or more of them, upon Complaint to them made of such Damage sustained as aforesaid, without Recompence for the same, shall be and are hereby impowered to award and decree such Recompence and Satisfaction to the Party and Parties grieved, according to their respective Damages sustained by such Cutting, as to the said Commissioners for the Time being, or any seven or more of them, shall be adjudged reasonable, the said Recompence and Satisfaction to be made and given by the said Corporation within six Months next after such

To distrain.

Barons of the  
Exchequer.

Lessees of the  
10000 Acres,  
capable of  
Elections.

such Award or Decree made; and in Default thereof the said Commissioners, or any seven or more of them, shall and may and are hereby impowered to rate and tax the said ninety and five thousand Acres, and to distrain thereupon for the Payment of such Rate or Tax, and the Distress taken thereupon to sell or dispose as they shall think fit, (rendering the Overplus, if any be, to the Owner) for the Payment and Satisfaction of such Monies and Damages as shall be so awarded; any Thing in this Act to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

XLVII. **Provided** nevertheless, That in Case the Judicature hereby established shall not, within twelve Months from the first Day of *August* next, hear and determine all the Matters by this Act to them referred concerning the said ninety-five thousand Acres, all and every such Person and Persons whose Complaints shall be then undetermined, may make their Applications to the Barons of his Majesty's Court of Exchequer, who are hereby established a Court of Judicature, and sufficiently authorized to hear and determine all such Controversies and Differences between the said Parties in as large and ample Manner, to all Intents and Purposes, as the Judicature hereby established might have done, and such Judgment, Order or Decree of the said Court of Exchequer shall be in all Things observed, and be effectual as if the said Barons had been made the only Judicature by this Act.

XLVIII. **Provided** always, and be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Lessees of the King's Majesty, his Heirs and Succes-

Successors of the said ten thousand Acres, or of any Part thereof, and the Assigns of such Lessees, and every or any of them, shall be capable to be elected and chosen into the Office or Place, Offices or Places of Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators aforesaid, and to vote in such Elections and Choice, and in all other Matters, as fully to all Intents and Purposes as any other Members of the Corporation, Owners of any Part of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, may be elected and chosen, vote in such Election and Choice, or in any other Matter, so as such Lessees and their Assignees respectively have and be Lessees or Owners of double the Quantity or Number of Acres, Parcel of the said ten thousand Acres, as by Virtue of this Act is required to qualify any Person to be elected and chosen into the Office or Place of Governor, Bailiff or Conservator respectively, and to vote in such Elections and Choice, or in any other Matter touching the said Level, and so as such Leases or Assignments they claim by be entered with the Register; any Thing before in this Act to the Contrary notwithstanding.

XLIX. **Provided** always, and be it Mr. Offley enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That may sue. this Act shall not extend to impeach or make void any Obligation given to *David Offley*, Gentleman, conditioned for his quiet Enjoyment of a certain Parcel of Land purchased by him in the said Level, but that the said *David Offley* may sue and prosecute his several Action or Actions upon the said Obligation,



gation, as if he had been evicted or removed from his Estate therein by due Course of Law.

Corporation  
not to be  
charged for  
Breaches,

L. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Breaches happen in any of the Banks, Saffes, Sluces, Tunnels, or other Works within the said Great Level, or in any the Works made without the said Great Level, for carrying the Waters of the said Great Level to their Outfall at Sea, by reason of some inevitable Accidents, the same shall be repaired and made good in convenient Time, by and at the Charges of the said Corporation and their Successors; but no other Charge shall be laid upon the said Corporation or their Successors, for or in respect of such Breaches, nor for or in respect of any Breaches that have happened heretofore in any of the said Banks, Saffes, Sluces, or other Works; nor shall the said Corporation be enforced to give to any other Person any Recompence for any Loss or Damage which hath or shall happen, by reason of their making necessary and sufficient Banks for the defending of the said Level from being overflown, and for the leading of the Waters of the said Level in their Channels as now they run unto their Outfall at Sea.

nor for making Banks.

Exchanges.

LI. **Provided** nevertheless, and be it enacted, That where any Participant under *Francis Earl of Bedford*, or the Heirs or Assigns of any such Participant, hath exchanged his or their Share or Lot of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, or any Part thereof, for any other Lands, Parcel of the said ninety-five thousand

thousand Acres, which were claimed and held under such pretended Sales for Non-payment of Taxas since one thousand six hundred forty and nine, It shall and may be lawful to and for such Participant and Participants, and his and their Heirs and Assigns, to enter again upon the same Lands so given in exchange, and to have and retain the same in his and their Possession; any Thing in this Act to the contrary notwithstanding: Subject nevertheless in all Things to such Judgment and Determination as the Judicature hereby constituted shall make concerning the same.

LII. **Provided** always, That no ascertain- Divisions only ing or dividing of the said drained or new im- to subject the proved Lands by the said Commissioners as Bounds to Ec- clesiastic Juris- diction. afore said, shall conclude the King's Majesty, his Heirs, Successors, or Assigns, or any other Person or Persons, as to the Bounds of Parishes, to any other Intent or Purpose than subjecting the same to Taxes and Contributions, and Episcopal Jurisdictions, and not as to the Right of Tithes or any other Purpose whatsoever, nor shall be, or be used in Evidence concerning the same.

LIII. **Provided** also, and be it further Disturbers of enacted by the Authority afore said, That if Inclosures for- feit 20 l. &c. any Person or Persons having Right of Com- mon in any of the Manors, Wastes, Commons or Lands within the said Great Level of the Fens called *Bedford Level*, or any other Person or Persons whatsoever, at any Time after such Division or Inclosure made or set out as afore said, shall break, throw down, disturb, obstruct, or by any Means hinder or lay open the

the said Improvements and Inclosures, at, in or after the making thereof, or the Hedges, Ditches or Fences of the same, or any Part thereof shall destroy, and shall be thereof convicted by two credible Witnesses upon Oath before two Justices of the Peace of the County where such Disturbance or Destruction shall be made, every such Person or Persons so convicted as aforesaid, shall forfeit for every such Offence the Sum of twenty Pounds, to be levied by Distress upon the Goods and Chattels of every such Offender or Offenders, by Warrant under the Hands and Seals of the said Justices of the Peace before whom such Conviction shall be made, the one Moiety to the Informer, and the other Moiety to such Person or Persons against whom the said Offence is or shall be committed; or for Want of such sufficient Distress, the Offender shall be committed to the House of Correction, or Common Gaol, for three Months, without Bail or Mainprize, at the said Justices Discretion.

After August  
1668, not to  
be taxed above  
2 s. per Acre  
for one Year.

Earl of Port-  
land's 2000  
Acres.

LIV. **Provided** always, and it is hereby enacted and declared by the Authority aforesaid, That from and after the first Day of *August*, which shall be in the Year of our Lord one thousand six hundred sixty and eight, no Tax or Taxes exceeding two Shillings the Acre in any one Year shall be assessed, laid or levied upon the said ten thousand Acres by this Act vested in the King's Majesty, his Heirs, Successors and Assigns, or upon any Part thereof, or upon the two thousand Acres hereby vested in the Assigns of the said Earl of *Portland*; but in case the Taxes to be assessed upon the said eighty-

eighty-three thousand Acres hereby vested in the said Corporation, shall not amount unto so much in Proportion as two Shillings an Acre, according to the Proportion for each Acre; Then a proportionable Abatement shall be made out of the said two Shillings *per* Acre, which shall be charged yearly by an equal Rate <sup>Rated *per* Acre.</sup> upon every Acre of the said ten thousand Acres, and the said two thousand Acres according to the Rate imposed upon every Acre of the said eighty-three thousand Acres, whether the same shall be assessed by an Acre-tax or a Pound-rate, or by any other Way; any Thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

LV. **And** it is further declared, that the <sup>Not to conclude on the Tax.</sup> assessing, laying, and levying of Taxes upon the said ten thousand Acres, or upon the said two thousand Acres, or any Part thereof, after the said first Day of *August* which shall be in the said Year of our Lord one thousand six hundred sixty and eight, by the Way of an Acre-tax, shall not extend nor be interpreted or construed to extend to compel or conclude the said Corporation to assess, lay or levy any Tax or Taxes upon the said eighty-three thousand Acres hereby vested in the said Corporation, or upon any Part thereof, by the Way of an Acre-tax.



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Anno Regni  
CAROLI II.

REGIS

*Angliæ, Scotiæ, Franciæ & Hiberniæ,*

VICESIMO.

At the Parliament begun at *Westminster* the eighth Day of *May Anno Domini* 1661, in the thirteenth Year of the Reign of our most Gracious Sovereign Lord *CHARLES*, by the Grace of God, of *England, Scotland, France* and *Ireland* King, Defender of the Faith, &c.

And there continued by several Prorogations to the tenth Day of *October* 1667: From whence it is continued by Adjournment made the ninth Day of *May* 1668 to the eleventh Day of *August* next following.

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Anno XX.

CAROLI II. Regis.

An Act for the Taxing and Assessing of the Lands of the Adventurers within the Great Level of the Fens.

**W** H E R E A S by an Act made Recital of  
in this present Parliament, en- 15 Car. 2.  
titled, *An Act for settling the*  
*Draining the Great Level of*  
*the Fens called Bedford Level,* It is amongst  
other Things enacted, That the Governor,  
Bailiffs and Conservators of the Corporation  
in the said Act mentioned, and by Virtue of  
the same from Time to Time to be elected  
and appointed, for the Time being, or any  
five or more of them, (whereof the Governor Powers given  
and Bailiffs for the Time being, or any of them, by 15 Car. 2.  
to be two) should and might from thenceforth to lay Taxes.  
use the Power and Authority of Commissio-  
ners of Sewers within the said Great Level,



Said Powers  
executed.

Wherein Cor-  
poration have  
proceeded by  
an Acre-tax,  
to the Damage  
of Adventurers  
as the Lands  
differ in Va-  
lue.

For remedy-  
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Corporation  
have taxed by  
a gradual  
Acre tax of  
five Sorts, on  
83000 Acres,  
and by a Me-  
dium on  
12000 Acres.

and from Time to Time *lay and impose Taxes*  
upon the ninety-five thousand Acres within  
the said Level in the said Act mentioned, for  
the Maintenance and Preservation of the same,  
as by the said Act appeareth: And whereas  
since the making of the said Act, the Gover-  
nor, Bailiffs and Conservators of the said  
Corporation, in Execution of the Power and  
Authority thereby to them given, have laid  
and imposed Taxes upon the said ninety-five  
thousand Acres, for the Purposes by the said  
Act specified and appointed, wherein they have  
proceeded by Way of an Acre-tax, at a cer-  
tain Rate by the Acre, and have inforced the  
Payment of the same after that Manner, to  
the great Damage of divers of the Adventurers  
and Participants, for that the said ninety-five  
thousand Acres are not only much different in  
the natural Richness and Barrenness of their  
Soil, but likewise some Parts of the said Lands  
are, by frequent Inundations and otherwise,  
exceedingly peyorated and made worse, and the  
Corn, Hay, Seed or Grass thereupon often de-  
stroyed; yet the same Lands are equally taxed  
with the best and most secure Lands in the said  
Level as aforesaid; the which said Way of  
raising Draining-taxes upon the said ninety-  
five thousand Acres, by an equal Acre-rate,  
hath been found to be inconvenient; And for  
removing the said Inconvenience, the said Go-  
vernor, Bailiffs and Conservators have of late  
proceeded to a more indifferent Way of taxing  
of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, (that is  
to say) by a gradual Acre-tax of five Sorts  
upon eighty-three thousand Acres, Part of the  
said

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saïd ninety-five thousand Acres, and by a Medium of the twelve thousand Acres, Residue of the saïd ninety-five thousand Acres: And to the Intent that Encouragement may be given for the better improving of the saïd ninety-five thousand Acres, and that a constant and certain Way of taxing may be continued and established for the future;

**Be** it enacted by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Assent of the Lords Spiritual and temporal and Commons in this Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That all Taxes hereafter to be set and imposed for the Maintenance and Preservation of the saïd Great Level, are hereby appointed and declared to be from Time to Time assessed and taxed by the saïd Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators, or their Successors, or any five or more of them, whereof the saïd Governor and Bailiffs for the Time being or any of them to be two, upon the saïd eighty-three thousand Acres, Part and Parcel of the saïd ninety-five thousand Acres, by a gradual Acre-tax of different Sorts and Values of Lands; the which saïd gradual Acre-tax set as aforesaid, and all future gradual Acre-taxes to be set, shall be received, paid and levied, with like Penalties in the saïd recited Act provided for Non-payment of Taxes, by such and the like Ways and Means as by the saïd recited Act are provided for to be paid and levied; and the saïd eighty-three thousand Acres for raising of Taxes for Support and Maintenance of the Great Level, are not to be rated or assessed otherwise, or in any other

Enacted that for the future all Taxes laid on the 83000 Acres, Part of the 95000 Acres, for Maintenance of Great Level be according to a gradual Acre-tax of different Sorts and Degrees, and according to the respective Values.

Manner than according to a gradual Acre-tax of different Sorts and Degrees, and according to the respective Values and Rates thereby set and rated, and to be set and rated as is hereafter appointed upon the said eighty-three thousand Acres; any Law, Statute or other Thing to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

12000 Acres  
Residue of  
95000 Acres,  
when the  
whole 95000  
are taxed for  
6110*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.*  
Halfpeny, to  
be taxed at  
1*s.* 3*d.* *per*  
Ac.*e.* and so  
in Proportion.

**And** whereas the said twelve thousand Acres, Residue of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, are by the said gradual Acre taxed towards the raising of the Sum of six thousand one hundred and ten Pounds seven Shillings one Penny Halfpeny, are rated and taxed at one Shilling three Pence *per* Acre, being a Medium as if the whole ninety-five thousand Acres had been rated, taxed and assessed at fifteen Pence *per* Acre; Be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That when and so often as a Tax of the said Sum of six thousand one hundred and ten Pounds seven Shillings one Penny Halfpeny, shall be taxed and assessed upon the said ninety-five thousand Acres, That then the said twelve thousand Acres shall be rated, taxed, and assessed by the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators, and their Successors, or any five or more of them, whereof the said Governor and Bailiffs, or any of them, to be two, at fifteen Pence the Acre, and according to the Proportion for the raising of any greater or lesser Sum than six thousand one hundred and ten Pounds seven Shillings one Penny Halfpeny, to be received, paid and levied, together with Penalties, in such and the like Manner as the Taxes set and imposed,

or

or to be set and imposed upon the said eighty-three thousand Acres, are by this Act provided for to be received, paid and levied. And be it further enacted and declared by the Authority aforesaid, That no Taxes to be set by Virtue of this Act, shall be set or imposed upon the said ninety-five thousand Acres by the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators, or their Successors, or any five or more of them, but upon *Wednesday, Thursday and Friday* next after the first *Sunday* in *April*, or some or one of them three Days yearly for ever, and not at any other Time; any Law, Custom, or Usage to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

Taxes not to be set but upon *Wednesday, Thursday and Friday* next after the first *Sunday* in *April*.

And whereas by the said recited Act, it is amongst other Things provided, That Sales for Non-payment of Taxes shall be made at *Ely* upon *Wednesday* and *Thursday* in *Whitsun* Week yearly, the which Season is found to be inconvenient: For Remedy whereof, Be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That from and after *Whitsun* Week, which shall be in the Year of our Lord one thousand six hundred sixty-eight, those Days for Sales shall be altered and changed unto the said *Wednesday, Thursday and Friday* after the said first *Sunday* in *April* in every Year, and all other Matters and Things concerning or relating to Sales for Non-payment of Taxes, by the said recited Act provided, are to stand in Force and to be observed with this; That the Serjeant at Mace of the said Great Level shall from Time to Time, by Precept under the Seal of the Corporation of the said Great

Sales for Non-payment of Taxes to be at *Ely* on *Wednesday, Thursday and Friday* after the first *Sunday* in *April*.

Serjeant at Mace, by Precept under Corporation Seal, to deliver Possession of Lands sold for Non-payment of Taxes.



Corporation  
to affix the  
Seal to such  
Precepts.

That 83000  
Acres may be  
more equally  
taxed, Com-  
missioners  
appointed to  
survey and  
value the  
same, and di-  
gest the same  
not under the  
Number of  
seven Sorts  
and Degrees.  
To tax the  
same in Sche-  
dules to be re-  
turned unto  
the Fen Office.  
This to be  
done on Oath.

Level, in Nature of a Writ of *Habere fac<sup>o</sup> possessionem*, at Common Law, deliver Posses-  
sion unto such Person or Persons as shall pur-  
chase any Part of the said ninety-five thousand  
Acres for Non-payment of Taxes; And the  
said Governor, Bailiffs, and Conservators are  
hereby required and authorized to affix the  
Seal of the said Corporation, from Time to  
Time, to the Precept or Precepts, at the  
Charge of the Parties requiring the same; any  
Law, Statute, Usage or Custom to the con-  
trary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

And to the End that the said eighty-three  
thousand Acres may be more equally taxed by  
a gradual Acre-tax, not under the Number of  
seven Sorts; Be it further enacted by the Au-  
thority aforesaid, That *Edward Partheriche*,  
Esq; *Samuel Fortrey*, Esq; *Richard Mariot*,  
Esq; *John Mingay*, *Jonas Moore*, *Peter Dia-*  
*mond*, Esquires, *Anthony Hammond*, Esq; *Mar-*  
*le Pla*, Gent. and *John Bridgeman jun.* Gent.  
or any three or more of them, are hereby con-  
stituted and appointed to be Surveyors and Va-  
luers of the said eighty-three thousand Acres,  
and are, within twelve Months next after the  
passing of this Act, to digest the said eighty-  
three thousand Acres into such Number of  
Sorts or Degrees of Land not under the Num-  
ber of seven Sorts and Degrees; and to rate  
and tax such Degrees, and digest the same in-  
to Schedules in Writing, and make Returns  
thereof upon their Oaths into the Fen  
Office; the Form of which said Oath shall  
be, (*viz.*)

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I A. B. do swear, That according to the best of my Skill and Knowledge, I will faithfully discharge the Trust of Surveying, Sorting, Dividing and Rating of eighty-three thousand Acres, Parcel of ninety-five thousand Acres within the Great Level of the Fens, known by the Name of Bedford Level, according to seven Degrees or more, as I upon my Oath shall think most equal.

Form of Oath  
to be administered to Commissioners.

The which said Oath the said Governor, Corporation Bailiffs and Conservators, or any three or more of them, are hereby authorized to administer, and also to allow unto the said Surveyors, or Valuers, such reasonable Charges for their Travel and Pains therein as they shall think fit; And after the same are returned into the said Fen Office, and there publicly set up, which said Return is hereby enacted to be made within one Month after the Survey taken, and the several Valuations by the Parties to that Purpose by this Act appointed and agreed upon, and all Parties agrieved may take their Exceptions within thirty Days next after the same are set up; And within forty Days next after such Exceptions taken, may appeal for Relief unto the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators, or any five or more of them, for altering the said Schedules in the Rates and Values complained of, so as the Parties appealing shall prosecute the said Appeal within the said forty Days, and not at any Time after: And in Case the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators shall not, within the said forty Days

to administer Oath, to pay Surveyors and Valuers for their Trouble.

Returns made into the Fen Office to be publicly set up.

Parties agrieved may take Exceptions and appeal to the Corporation.

relieve

If Parties are  
dissatisfied  
with the Judg-  
ment of the  
Corporation,

may appeal to  
Commissioners  
of Appeal,

who are em-  
powered to de-  
termine and  
award Costs.

Schedules with  
Alterations  
made by Cor-  
poration, or  
Commissioners  
of Appeal  
hereby con-  
firmed and made a Rule for taxing 83000 Acres.

relieve the said Parties grieved, or if the said Par-  
ties shall not be satisfied with the Determination  
of the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators,  
that then the said Parties may appeal unto Sir  
*Henry North*, Baronet, Sir *Levinus Bennet*,  
Baronet, Sir *Robert Brook* of *Toxford*, Knight,  
Sir *Edmond Pooley*, Knight, *Henry Williams*,  
*Robert Apreece*, *Richard Naylor*, *Humphry*  
*Orme*, *Morris Tresham*, *Laurence Oxborough*,  
*Henry Farrer junior*, *Edward Barber*, *Matthew*  
*Wren*, *Thomas Marsh*, *Henry Fitch*, Doctor of  
Laws, *Thomas Steward*, *Anthony Fisher*, *Mat-*  
*thias Tayler*, *John Towers*, Esquires, and *Bur-*  
*rage Martin*, Gent. or any three or more of  
them, who are hereby constituted and appoint-  
ed Commissioners of Appeal to hear and de-  
termine such Complaints, and to give Relief  
therein as they shall see Cause, and to award  
Costs to either Parties as they shall see Cause,  
the which said Costs may be recovered by  
Action of Debt in any of his Majesty's Courts  
of Record at *Westminster*, wherein no Essoign  
or Wager of Law shall be allowed; which  
said Appeals to the Commissioners shall be du-  
ly prosecuted by the said Parties grieved within  
two Months next after the Expiration of the  
forty Days, and not at any Time after; the  
which said Schedules with the Alterations, if  
any shall be made by the said Corporation  
wherewith the Parties shall rest satisfied, or by  
the Determination of the said Commissioners  
of Appeal, are hereby confirmed, and shall  
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be a constant Rule and Foundation for the rating and taxing of the said eighty-three thousand Acres for the future, for Maintenance and Preservation of the Works made and to be made within or without the said Great Level of the said Fens; And that the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators, nor their Successors, nor any of them, shall tax or assess the said eighty-three thousand Acres, otherwise than by and according to the said Schedules to be returned or confirmed as aforesaid; And it is declared that the said twelve thousand Acres, Residue of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, shall be rated and taxed by a Medium towards all Taxes hereafter to be laid, as by the said Tax made the said twentieth Day of *June* is provided, and not otherwise.

And it is hereby further enacted, That a Tax of the said Sum of six thousand one hundred and ten Pounds seven Shillings one Penny Halfpenny, shall and may be set by the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators, or any five or more of them, in *Whitsun* Week next, upon the said eighty-three thousand Acres, according to the said gradual Acre-tax of five Degrees, upon the said twelve thousand Acres, at fifteen Pence *per* Acre; and for Non-payment shall and may be levied by Sales on *Wednesday*, *Thursday* or *Friday* after the said first Sunday in *April* then next following; And that from thenceforth all future Taxes shall be laid and imposed upon the said eighty-three thousand Acres by a gradual Acre-tax not under seven Degrees, and twelve thousand Acres in such Manner and Form as by this Act

Corporation  
not to tax  
otherwise than  
according to  
Schedules.

12000 Acres,  
Residue of  
95000 Acres,  
to be taxed by  
a Medium.

Tax of 6110 *l.*  
7 *s.* 1 *d.* Half-  
penny to be  
set in *Whitsun*  
Week next on  
83000 Acres,  
according to  
five Degrees,  
on 12000  
Acres, at  
1 *s.* 3 *d.* *per*  
Acre.

Sale to be on  
*Wednesday*,  
*Thursday*, *Fri-*  
*day* after first  
Sunday in  
*April*;  
ever after ac-  
cording to  
this Act.



Sir Miles Sandys the Elder, and Sir Miles Sandys the Younger, the Shares they adventured for settled in Trust on Samuel Sandys, Esq; for Payment of Debts, &c.

Act is provided, and not otherwise. And where- as Sir *Miles Sandys* the Elder, and Sir *Miles Sandys* the Younger, were Adventurers and Participants with *Francis* late Earl of *Bedford* in the said Level, and had an Interest in several Shares, Lots and Proportions in the said Great Level; the Right, Title and Interest in great Part of which said Shares and Lots were, as appears by Indenture bearing Date the twelfth Day of *June* in the first Year of his now Majesty's Reign, made between Sir *Miles Sandys* the Younger of the one Part, and *Thomas Sandys*, Esq; and *Robert Sandys*, Clerk of *Humberstone Marsh*, Esq; *Samuel Spalding*, Gent. *William Wolfson*, Clerk, and *John Kirbysley*, Esq; on the third Part, settled in several Trustees therein named, in Trust for the Payment of all such Taxes as should be due for or in respect of the said Lands mentioned in the said Indenture, and after in Trust for the securing of the said *Samuel Sandys*, Esq; from all such Debts as he the said *Samuel Sandys* stood ingaged for, the proper Debts of the said Sir *Miles Sandys* the Elder, and Sir *Miles Sandys* the Younger: Since which said Indenture so had and made, the said *Samuel Sandys* the Elder has paid great Sums of Money for and towards the Satisfaction of the said Debts of Sir *Miles Sandys* the Elder and Sir *Miles Sandys* the Younger, and yet hath reaped no Benefit by Virtue of the said Deed or Trust so as aforesaid made for his Security, although by an Act made by this present Parliament, intituled, *An Act for settling the Draining of the*

Great

*Great Level of the Fens called Bedford Level,*  
the said *Samuel Sandys* ought to have had a  
Conveyance of the Shares and Lots mentioned  
in the said Indenture: But in regard the said  
*Samuel Sandys*, Esq; nor any in Trust for  
him, could procure any Conveyance, which  
hath proved very prejudicial to the said *Samuel*  
*Sandys* the Elder;

but he hath  
not been able  
to get any  
Conveyance  
thereof.

Be it therefore enacted by the King's most  
Excellent Majesty, the Lords Spiritual and  
Temporal and the Commons in this present  
Parliament assembled, and by Authority of  
the same, That all the said Lots and Shares  
in the said Indenture mentioned (except only  
such Lands of the said half Share as were  
really sold by Sir *Miles Sandys* the Elder or Sir  
*Miles Sandys* the Younger, for full and valua-  
ble considerations, and such of the said two  
Shares which have been sold for the Payment  
of Taxes or Debts in Pursuance of the said  
Indenture, by the said Sir *Miles Sandys* and  
the Trustees Parties to the said Indenture) are  
hereby vested and settled in *Samuel Sandys* the  
Younger, Esq; and *Edwin Sandys*, Gent. Sons  
of the said *Samuel Sandys* the Elder, their Heirs  
and Assigns, freed and discharged from all  
Manner of Taxes whatsoever to the Time of  
the passing this Act: And by the Authority  
aforesaid, the Freehold and Inheritance of the  
said Lots and Shares aforesaid, except before  
excepted, shall be deemed and adjudged to be  
in the said *Samuel Sandys* the Younger and *Ed-*  
*win Sandys*, their Heirs and Successors for  
ever; Nevertheless the said Shares and Lots,  
thereby vested, shall be liable to the Payment

All the said  
Shares except  
as hereby ex-  
cepted,

hereby vested  
in the Sons of  
said *Samuel*  
*Sandys* dis-  
charged of  
Taxes;

subject to Pay-  
ment of Debts  
according to  
of the original  
Trust,

and to future  
Taxes.

of the Debts aforesaid, and to all Powers and Jurisdictions, together with the Residue of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, as the same are subject and liable by the said recited Act for the future, and of all such Taxes and Penalties as shall be hereafter assessed or laid for the Preservation of the said Great Level, in such Sort and Manner as the eighty-three thousand Acres, Parcel of the ninety-five thousand Acres, shall be assessed and taxed; any Law, Statute or Thing to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

Sales for Non-  
payment of  
Taxes of said  
Shares under  
15 Car. 2.  
null and void.

**Provided** also, and it is hereby further declared and enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all and every the Sale or Sales made, agreed or contracted for, for Non-payment of Taxes of any of the Lands of the said Sir *Miles Sandys* the Elder or Sir *Miles Sandys* the Younger, or the said *Samuel Sandys* the Elder, Esq; by the Governors, Bailiffs and Conservators, constituted and elected by Authority of an Act of this present Parliament, intituled, *An Act for settling the Draining of the Great Level of the Fens called Bedford Level*, to any Person or Persons whatsoever by Virtue or Colour of the said Act, is, are and shall be null and void; and that the said Lands sold by the said Governors, Bailiffs and Conservators, (except before excepted) are and shall be vested in and settled by this present Act in the said *Samuel Sandys* the Younger, and *Edwin Sandys*, their Heirs and Assigns, freed and discharged of and from all Taxes laid by the said Govern-

nors,

nors, Bailiffs and Conservators; any Thing in the said recited Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

And to the End the said *Samuel Sandys* and *Edwin Sandys* may have the Effect and Benefit hereby intended them; and that the Occupiers and Possessors of the said Shares and Lots, vested in them the said *Samuel Sandys* and *Edwin Sandys* as aforesaid, may not, by their continuing in Possession and Neglect of paying the Taxes hereafter to be imposed on the said Shares and Lots or any Part of them, cause the same to be forfeited and sold for Non-payment of the respective Taxes that shall become due for the same; Be it therefore hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That in Case any Occupier or Possessor of any the said Shares or Lots in the said Deed of Trust mentioned as aforesaid, or of any Part of them, pretending to claim under the said Deed of Trust or otherwise, that shall refuse to deliver or yield up the Possession of such Part of the said Shares or Lots to them the said *Samuel Sandys* and *Edwin Sandys*, or their Assignees, and shall not duly pay the Taxes hereafter to be imposed on the same before our *Ladyday* one thousand six hundred seventy-one, That when the Serjeant at Mace for the Time being, attending the said Corporation, is hereby authorized and empowered by Precept under the Seal of the Corporation of the said Great Level (who are hereby required to grant and issue out the same) in the Nature of a Writ of *Habere facias possessionem* at the Common Law, to deliver unto, and put them the said

The Sons of the said Samuel Sandys to be put into Possession thereof by a Precept under the Corporation Seal.



faid *Samuel Sandys* and *Edwin Sandys*, their Heirs or Assigns, in the quiet and peaceable Possession of such Shares and Lots, or any Part of them; and all and every such Occupier or Occupiers, Possessor or Possessors thereof, off and from the same to eject, expel and amove; they the said *Samuel Sandys* and *Edwin Sandys*, upon reasonable Notice, first paying or tendring such Taxes as shall become due for the same from the Time of the passing this Act, one Month before the next Day of Sale for Non-payment of such Taxes hereafter to be imposed; which said *Samuel Sandys* and *Edwin Sandys*, and their Heirs, are thereupon hereby actually vested in the same.

All Arrears of Rent since 15 Car. 2. on the said Shares to be paid to the Sons of Samuel Sandys.

And whereas the said several Shares and Lots of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, herein before vested and settled in the said *Samuel Sandys* the Younger, and *Edwin Sandys*, and their Heirs as aforesaid, ought to have been conveyed unto the said *Samuel Sandys* the Elder, or his Trustees, by the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators of the said Corporation, by Virtue of the said beforementioned Act, as in and by the same they were required and directed, which they refuse to do, whereby the Rents, Issues and Profits thereof have not been paid to nor could be received by the said *Samuel Sandys* the Elder, or his Trustees, or by any other, by, to or for his or their Use; Be it therefore hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said *Samuel Sandys*, and *Edwin Sandys*, shall and are hereby intitled to the said Rents, Issues and Profits of the said Shares and Lots since the passing

of the said recited Act, which have not really been paid to the said Corporation for Taxes, or to the said *Samuel Sandys* the Elder, and the Occupiers and Possessors thereof are hereby appointed to pay the same accordingly; and in Default of Payment thereof, or of any Part thereof, they the said *Samuel Sandys* and *Edwin Sandys* are hereby authorized and impowered to sue for, and by Virtue of his Act shall recover the same, wherein no Effoin, Protection or Wager of Law shall be allowed, and shall likewise have their Costs of Suit expended therein; any Thing herein to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

**Provided** always, and be it enacted, That after the said *Edwin* and *Samuel Sandys* shall have recovered and received Satisfaction for the mean Profits, or any Part of them; That then they, their Heirs and Assigns, shall pay so much of the said Arrears of the said gradual Acre-tax, imposed upon the said respective Lands, proportionably to what they shall receive and no more.

**Provided** always, and be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That whereas several Parcels of the said ninety-five thousand Acres ought to have been conveyed to *Thomas Lord Culpepper* or his Trustees, by the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators of the said Corporation, by Virtue of the said before recited Act, as in and by the same they were required and directed, which they delayed to do, whereby the Rents, Issues and Profits thereof have not been paid to nor could be received by the said *Thomas Lord Culpepper* or

who may sue for the same.

The Sons of said Samuel Sandys to pay Arrears of Taxes in Proportion to Rents receiv'd.

Parts of the 95000 Acres not conveyed to Lord Culpepper or his Trustees, to be conveyed; and he and his Trustees to recover Rents Arrear.

his Trustees, that the said *Thomas Lord Culpepper*, and his Trustees, shall and are hereby intituled to the said Rents, Issues and Profits of the said Parcels, since the passing of the said recited Act, which have not been really paid to the Corporation for Taxes, or to him or them; and the Occupiers and Possessors thereof are hereby required to pay the same accordingly; and in Default of Payment thereof or any Part thereof, he the said *Thomas Lord Culpepper*, and his Trustees, are hereby authorized and impowered to sue for, and by Virtue of this Act shall recover the same, wherein no Effoin, Protection or Wager of Law shall be allowed, and shall likewise have their Costs of Suit expended herein; any Thing to the contrary hereof in any wise notwithstanding.

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THE  
S U R V E Y  
FOR THE

Eighty-three Thousand A C R E S,

Parcel of ninety-five thousand Acres within the Great Level of the Fens called *Bedford Level*, returned into the Fen Office sorted into eleven several Degrees by *Edward Partheriche*, *Samuel Fortrey*, *Richard Marriott*, *John Mingay* and *Anthony Hammond*, Esquires, *Mark Le Pla* and *John Bridgeman*, Gentlemen, Persons constituted and appointed by an Act of this present Parliament, intituled, *An Act for the taxing and assessing of the Lands of the Adventurers within the Great Level of the Fens, for surveying, sorting, dividing and rating the same.*

Set up in the Office the tenth of October 1668,  
by Order of the ninth of September last.

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THE  
S U R V E Y

FOR THE

Highway, Township and Acres

of the County of ... with

in the County of ...

and ...

into eleven ...

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## The FIRST LOT.

		A.	R.	P.	S.
1	<b>H</b> Addenham Common, A.	100	0	0	5
2	Botsham High Fen, } Mr. Blake,	70	0	0	6
one hundred forty Acres,	} Dr. Denton,	70	0	0	7
3	Sutton Meadlands next to Middlemoor,	131	0	0	6
4	Westmoor North of Bedford River, A.	400	0	0	3
5	Coveney Severals, A.	73	0	0	3
6	Helgay Common by Capt. Skipwith's Bank,	318	0	0	5
7	Townmoor, Arkenstall, Unley Severals, Eastmoor, Little Shell and Thompson's Fen in Lackingheath, and two Sedge Fens, and Coplowe Fen in Mildenhall, A.	200	0	0	2
8	Whelpmoor, Lowellmoor and Spains Delph, A.	478	0	0	4
9	Stuntney Common,	32	0	0	4
10	Stuntney Farm,	22	0	0	4
11	Stuntney Small Severals,	12	0	0	4
12	Part of Thorney,	100	0	0	3
13	One Several in Woodwalton,	15	0	0	4
14	Grunty Fen, A.	100	0	0	4
15	Bezeling in Doddington,	344	0	0	3
16	Creek Fen in Doddington, A. next to-wards March,	200	0	0	3
17	Stoney Fen and Block Common, A.	500	0	0	4
18	Sommersham Common, A. next Croylode,	300	0	0	5
19	Great Bradney Moor, A. Several in Doddington,	162	2	0	4

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	A.	R.	P.	S.
Brought over,	36	27	2	0
20 Severals in Doddington,	32	2	0	4
21 Hale Fen Common and Sedge Fen, A. } Several by Welney next to Welney, A. }	200	0	0	2
22 Severals of Well and Welney,	40	0	0	5
23 Westmoor North, D. the fourth Piece } from Welney, }	50	0	0	3
24 Westmoor South, P. the fixth Piece } from Welney, }	50	0	0	2
	4000	0	0	0
	450	0	0	2
	1167	0	0	3
	1354	0	0	4
	758	0	0	5
	201	0	0	6
	70	0	0	7

Edward Partheriche, Samuel Fortrey, Richard Marriott,  
John Mingay, Anthony Hammond, Mark Le Pla,  
John Bridgman.

The SECOND LOT.

	A.	R.	P.	S.
1 <b>H</b> Addenham Common,	B.	100	0	0 5
2 Sutton in North Fen,		272	0	0 5
3 Westmore North,	B.	400	0	0 3
4 Coveney Severals,	B.	73	0	0 3
5 Methwold Common and Feltwell North } Fen,	A. }	400	0	0 1
6 Townmoor in Lakeingheath, &c.	B.	200	0	0 1
7 Whelpemoor, &c.	B.	461	0	0 4
8 Ladus Fen next unto Creek Fen,		115	0	0 4
9 Botsham, Qui and Ditton Intercommon, } A. next Botsham Lode,		100	0	0 1
10 Langwood Fen in Chartresse,	A.	300	0	0 4
11 Creek Fen in Doddington,	B.	260	0	0 3
12 Stoney and Blockfen Common,	B.	400	0	0 4
13 Sommerham Common,	B.	300	0	0 4
14 Severals in March,		68	0	0 4
15 Upwood Fen lying next towards Ramsey,		451	0	0 2
16 Westmoor, M. the twelfth Piece from } Welney,		50	0	0 3
17 Westmoor South, A. the twentieth Piece } from Welney,		50	0	0 2
		4000	0	0
		700	0	0 1
		501	0	0 2
		783	0	0 3
		1644	0	0 4
		372	0	0 5



## The THIRD LOT.

	A.	R.	P.	S.
1 <b>I</b> Sleham Common	125	00	02	
Nearest the River,	125	00	03	
2 Middleditch Fen in Wivelingham,	77	10	11	
3 Great Shelford in Wivelingham,	12	30	11	
4 Sutton the Remainder of North Fen and the Middle next towards Chartresse Fens, and Six Acres twenty-six Peaches in West Fen adjoining,	32	00	04	
5 Westmoor North,	C.	200	00	03
6 Westmoor South,	A.	200	00	02
7 Ramsey Severals,	A.	73	00	05
8 Methwold Common, &c.	B.	400	00	01
9 Townmoor, &c.	C.	200	00	01
10 Brandon Commons,		350	00	03
11 North Clouds, A. Common of Lakingheath,	58	20	04	
12 Severals of Lakingheath,	A.	52	20	03
13 Ladus Fen,	B.	115	00	04
14 Grunty Fen,	B.	100	00	04
15 Langwood Fen,	B.	300	00	04
16 Whitemoor in Doddington, A. the Par- cel of three hundred Acres diked out,	300	00	04	
17 Stoney and Blockfen Common,	C.	400	00	04
18 Eufimoor, Well, Pingle and Farmers Fen	A.	500	00	03
19 Conington Severals, A. in the greater Fen,	200	00	04	
20 Well and Welney Severals,	79	00	05	
21 Westmoor North, N. the thirteenth Piece from Welney,	50	00	03	
22 Westmoor South, S. the third Piece from Welney,	50	00	02	

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Acres 4000 00

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[ 345 ]

A. R. P. S.

600 0 0 1

375 0 0 2

1277 2 0 3

1505 2 0 4

152 0 0 5

Edward Partheriche, Samuel Fortrey, Richard Marriott,  
John Mingay, Anthony Hammond, Mark Le Pla,  
John Bridgman.

The

## The FOURTH LOT.

	A. R. P. S.
1 <b>H</b> Addenham Common,	C. 100 0 0 5
2 Barway Middle and Fordey in } Soham,	231 0 0 7
3 Honey Fen in Chartresse,	40 0 0 5
4 Westmoor South,	B. 400 0 0 2
5 Ramsey Severals,	B. 74 0 0 5
6 Methwold Common, &c.	C. 400 0 0 1
7 Townmoor, &c.	D. 200 0 0 1
8 Whelpmoor, &c.	C. 461 0 0 4
9 Sir Miles Sandys imbanked Grounds,	B. 115 0 0 3
10 Grunty Fen,	C. 126 0 0 3
11 Wendey Fen in Chartres,	300 0 0 4
12 Whitemoor in Doddington, B. next to } the three hundred Acres diked out,	400 0 0 4
13 Eufimoor, &c.	C. 548 0 0 3
14 Somersham,	C. 300 0 0 4
15 Feltwell Severals,	D. 80 0 0 2
16 Caldecott Severals,	56 0 0 2
17 Mr. Tyrrell's Ground by Priest Houses, } twenty-four Acres and three Acres,	27 0 0 3
18 Severals of Doddington,	42 0 0 4
19 Westmoor North, E. the fifth Piece from } Welney,	50 0 0 3
20 Westmoor South, K. the eleventh Piece } from Welney,	50 0 0 2
	<hr/> 4000 0 0
	600 0 0 1
	586 0 0 2
	866 0 0 3
	1503 0 0 4
	214 0 0 5
	231 0 0 7
	The

The FIFTH LOT.

	A. R. P. S.
1 <b>H</b> addenham Common,	D. 78 0 0 5
2 Streatham Common,	172 2 0 5
3 Sutton South of Bedford River, next to the Fens of Haddenham and Went- worth,	} 120 2 0 5
4 Westmoor South,	C. 400 0 0 2
5 Berry Mow Fen,	45 0 0 5
6 Ramsey Severals,	D. 8 0 0 7
7 Wicham Common ten Acres, and Seve- rals A. four Acres, in all	} 14 0 0 5
8 Chartresse Severals,	5 0 0 5
9 Dereham Commons,	200 0 0 3
10 Lakeingheath Townmoor, &c.	E. 200 0 0 3
11 Whelpmoor, &c.	D. 661 0 0 5
12 Knights Fen in Hockwold and Redmore Grounds,	} 111 0 0 2
13 Throckenholt by Clowescrofs A. next Clowescrofs,	} 5 0 0 6
14 Grunty Fen,	D. 100 0 0 4
15 Northwold Common A. next to Stoake Bridge,	} 200 0 0 3
16 Westfen and Westfen Close,	483 0 0 3
17 Whitemoor C. next unto Wisbich Fen,	300 0 0 5
18 Somersham Common	D. 300 0 0 4
19 Middlemoor in Ramsey,	A. 400 0 0 4
20 Conington Severals,	B. 81 0 0 3
21 Severals of Well and Welney,	16 0 0 5
22 Westmoor North G. the seventh Piece from Welney,	} 50 0 0 3

Carried over 3950 0 0



Brought over, 3950 0 0  
 23 Westmoor South R. the fourth Piece } 50 0 0 2  
 from Welney,

4000 0 0

561 0 0 2

1214 0 0 3

800 0 0 4

1412 0 0 5

5 0 0 6

8 0 0 7

Edward Partheriche, Samuel Fortrey, Richard Marriott,  
 John Mingay, Anthony Hammond, Mark Le Pla,  
 John Bridgman.

The SIXTH LOT.

	A.	R.	P.	S.
1 Sleham Common, Neareast the River,	B. 125	00	2	
2 Clattocks or Langridge in Wivelingham,	125	00	3	
3 Babishume in Wivelingham,	53	00	11	
4 Upware Farm in Wicken	13	30	11	
5 Lammas Grounds in Wicken near Up- ware Farm,	5	00	11	
6 Sutton Meadlands next unto the Grounds mentioned in the first Lot,	23	10	5	
7 Westmoor South,	25	00	6	
8 Mepall Severals,	D. 400	00	2	
9 Methwold, &c.	A. 73	00	4	
10 Townmoor, &c.	D. 400	00	1	
11 Whelpmoor, &c.	F. 200	00	2	
12 Ladus Fen,	E. 461	00	2	
13 Wereham, Wretton and Stoake Com- mon next towards Stoake,	C. 115	00	4	
14 Curffe and Gore in Chartresse A. next Chartresse,	336	00	2	
15 Dikeamoor next Westwater,	200	00	4	
16 Horsemoor in Doddington A. exchanged for the like Quantity in Bezeling Fen by the Commissioners, lying next Rough Westmoor in Chartresse,	156	00	3	
17 Eufimoor, &c.	200	00	3	
18 Hale Fen and Sedge Fen by Welney,	B. 500	00	3	
19 Severals of Well and Welney,	B. 200	00	2	
20 Westmoor North C. the third Piece from Welney,	B. 289	00	5	
	50	00	3	

Carried over 3950 00

		A. R. P. S.
Brought over,		3950 00
21 Westmoor South H. the thirteenth	}	
Piece from Welney,		50 00

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## The SEVENTH LOT.

	A. R. P. S.
1 Sleham Common, Nearest the River,	C. 115 0 0 2 115 0 0 3
2 Wilberton Commons and Severals,	124 0 0 9
3 Rampton Commons,	16 0 0 8
4 Westmore South,	E. 400 0 0 2
5 Mepall Severals,	B. 75 0 0 4
6 Methwold, &c.	E. 400 0 0 1
7 Townmoor, &c.	G. 200 0 0 2
8 Feltwell South Fen and Mow Fen,	A. 161 0 0 2
9 Mildenhall, Burnt Fen, Ely Shell and Shippey A. 300 Acres,	} 150 0 0 3 } 150 0 0 4
Next Shippey,	
10 Sir Miles Sandys imbanked Ground, C. next Crouchmoor,	} 115 0 0 3
11 Sir Henry Willoughby's Severals in Southery, West of the River Ouse,	} 76 0 0 4
12 Curffe and Gore in Chartresse B. next Doddington,	} 200 0 0 4
13 Dikeamoor in Doddington,	A. 200 0 0 3
14 Horsemoor B. 200 Acres, whereof ex- changed 82 Acres for 82 Acres in Bezeling by the Commissioners,	} 200 0 0 3
15 Hale Fen and Sedge Fen by Welney, C. next unto the remaining Part of Sedge Fen,	} 195 0 0 2
16 Eufimoor, &c.	D. 500 0 0 3
17 Middlemoor in Ramsey,	B. 400 0 0 3
18 Sir Oliver Cromwell's Severals in Ram- sey,	A. 108 0 0 4

Carried over 3900 0 0



A. R. P. S.

Brought over, 3900 0 0

19 Westmoor North, K. the tenth Piece } 50 0 0 3

from Welney, }

20 Westmoor South, O. the seventh Piece } 50 0 0 2

from Welney, }

4000 0 0

400 0 0

1121 0 0

1730 0 0

609 0 0

16 0 0

124 0 0

Edward Partheriche, Samuel Fortrey, Richard Marriott  
John Mingay, Anthony Hammond, Mark Le Pla  
John Bridgman.

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The EIGHTH LOT.

	A.	R.	P.	S.
1 S Waffham High Fen,	A. 200	0	0	3
2 Haddenham Severals 138 Acres,				
Mr. Fortrey,	99	3	32	8
Mr. Read,	38	0	8	11
3 Sutton South of Bedford River,	32	0	0	5
4 Byall Fen,	A. 400	0	0	4
5 Mepall Commons,	53	0	0	4
6 Severals of Mepall,	C. 22	0	0	4
7 Helgay and Southrey Common,	A. 300	0	0	3
8 Lakeingheath, &c.	H. 200	0	0	1
9 Milldenhall, &c. B. 300 Acres,	150	0	0	2
Nearest the River,	150	0	0	3
10 Feltwell South Fen and Mow Fen,	B. 261	0	0	2
11 Knights Fen and Redmoor Grounds,	B. 115	0	0	2
12 Botsham, Horningsey, &c.	B. 100	0	0	1
13 Northwold Common by Stoake North of Wifley,	29	0	0	7
14 Langwood Fen in Chartresse,	C. 320	0	0	4
15 West Fen and West Fen Close,	B. 525	0	0	3
16 Middlemoor,	C. 400	0	0	3
17 Poolings in Hockwold,	100	0	0	1
18 Sir John Wat's Grounds in London-ers Fen,	352	1	0	4
19 Several of Doddington,	42	3	0	4
20 Hen Middle in Londoners Fen,	10	0	0	4
21 Westmoor North, O. the fourteenth Piece from Welney,	50	0	0	3

Carried over, 3950 0 0

A a

Brought

Brought over,  
22 Westmoor South, C. the eighteenth  
Piece from Welney,

A. R. P. S.  
3950 0 0

5 50 0 0 2

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4000 0 0

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576 0 0 2

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The NINTH LOT.

	A.	R.	P.	S.
1 D Enver Fen South of Bedford River,	124	0	0	7
2 Mr. Wendy's Ground in Chartresse,	234	0	0	6
3 Widdows Severals in Mepal,	8	0	0	4
4 Bream Farm by Ely,	4	0	0	11
5 Westmoor South,	F.	200	0	2
6 Byall Fen,	B.	200	0	4
7 Coveney Severals,	B.	75	0	3
8 Helgay and Southery Common,	B.	300	0	3
9 Mildenhall, &c. C. 300 Acres,		150	0	2
Nearest the River,		150	0	3
10 Townmoor, &c.	I.	200	0	1
11 A Several in Lakeingheath by Cross?		8	0	3
Water,				
12 Hockwold and Wilton Common,	A.	253	0	2
13 Ladus Fen,	D.	115	0	4
14 Read's Fen in Helgay,		360	0	3
15 Swaffham Sedge Fen 180 Acres, Part				
of high Fen five Acres, Part of		189	0	1
Croyle four Acres,				
16 West Fen and West Fen Close,	C.	500	0	3
17 Warboys Fen, Wistow Fen, Ramsey				
Eastmoor and Pulver Fen and Turfe		500	0	2
Fen in Doddington,	A.			
18 Denton Common,		156	0	4
19 Knobballs in Welney South of Bedford				
River,		19	0	2
20 Common Piece in Welney,		134	0	1
21 Loveokes a Several adjoining to Com-				
mon Piece,		21	0	2
22 Westmoor North T. the ninth Piece?				
from Welney,		50	0	3

A a 2

Carried over 3950 0 0



Brought over,  
23 Westmoor South T. the second Piece }  
from Welney,

A. R. P. S.  
3950 0 0

50 0 0 2

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4000 0 0

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523 0 0 1

1193 0 0 2

1443 0 0 3

479 0 0 4

234 0 0 6

124 0 0 7

4 0 0 11

Edward Partheriche, Samuel Fortrey, Richard Marriott,  
John Mingay, Anthony Hammond, Mark Le Pla,  
John Bridgman.

The

The TENTH LOT.

	A.	R.	P.	S.	
1 <b>D</b> Enver Fen North of Bedford River,	256	0	0	8	
2 Severals of Denver by the Grounds of Well,	4	0	0	9	
3 Sir Henry Willoughby's Several in Southery East of Ouse,	76	0	0	8	
4 Lammas Grounds in Wicken next to High Fen,	21	0	0	5	
5 Mr. Barrow's imbanked Ground in Wicken,	7	0	0	3	
6 Stacks in Wivelingham seven Acres,	7	0	0	7	
7 Croyle in Swaffham A. next to the hard Lands,	200	0	0	2	
8 Burwell Common,	A.	247	0	0	2
9 Sir Edward Peyton's Sedge Severals in Wicken,	14	0	0	2	
10 Rowey in Somersham,	11	0	0	6	
11 Helgay and Southery Common,	C.	300	0	0	3
12 Townmoor, &c.	K.	200	0	0	1
13 Mildenhall &c. D. 300 Acres, Near the River,	150	0	0	2	
14 Hockwold and Wilton Common,	B.	222	0	0	1
15 Littleport Severals,	41	0	0	4	
16 Mr. Gibbon's Ground called Warners, A. next Redmoors,	115	0	0	3	
17 Botsham, Horningsey, &c.	C.	100	0	0	1
18 Northwold Common,	B.	200	0	0	3
19 Normoor in Chartresse A. next to Honey,	400	0	0	4	
20 Warboys, &c.	B.	500	0	0	3
21 Horsemoor,	D.	287	0	0	3
22 Sir Robert Bell's Grounds in Londoners Fen,	136	2	0	5	

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Carried over 3644 2 0

	A.	R.	P.	S.
Brought over,	36	44	2	0
23 Sir Lewis Tresham's Ground in Londoners Fen,	93	1	0	4
24 Mr. Fincham's Grounds in Londoners Fen,	11	3	0	4
25 The Ground in Londoners Fen late Mr. Fincham's,	13	1	0	4
26 Part of Sedge Fen in Welney North of Bedford River Eastward,	1	0	0	2
27 Part of Knobballs in Welney North of Bedford River,	9	0	0	3
28 Three Severals in Welney between Poppham's Eau and new Dike,	65	0	0	5
29 Several of Dodington,	62	1	0	4
30 Westmoor North H. the eighth Piece from Welney,	50	0	0	3
31 Westmoor South next Piece to Welney,	50	0	0	2
	4000	0	0	0
	522	0	0	1
	662	0	0	2
	1618	0	0	3
	758	0	0	4
	86	0	0	5
	11	0	0	6
	7	0	0	7
	332	0	0	8
	4	0	0	9

The ELEVENTH LOT.

	A.	R.	P.	S.
1 Eatmoor in Upwell,	A.	250	00	5
2 Middlemoor in Sutton,		37	00	5
3 Coxnefts and Mr. Jetherell's Hamlets in } Sutton,		6	00	5
4 West Fen next to Sutton Meadlands,		76	00	5
5 Byall Fen,	C.	400	00	4
6 Mepall Severals of Mr. Carters by Furry } Fen,		18	00	4
7 Coveney Severals,		56	00	3
8 Methwold, &c.	F.	488	00	2
9 Townmoor, &c.	L.	200	00	1
10 Norney Farm,		79	00	3
11 Littleport Severals,	B.	203	00	4
12 Roxam Common,		94	00	3
13 Sutton in Holland A. next unto Wride,		115	00	5
14 Pyemoor near Witchford,		152	00	4
15 Normoor in Chartrefse,	B.	400	00	4
16 The Middle in Doddington,		200	00	4
17 Warboys, &c.	C.	500	00	3
18 Raveley Fen in Ramsey,		229	00	3
19 Sir William Cockayne's Ground in Lon- } doners Fen,		171	00	4
20 Part of Sedge Fen in Welney lying North } of Bedford River,		10	00	2
21 Feltwell Severals,	A.	216	00	1
22 Westmoor North A. next Piece to Welney,		50	00	3
23 Westmoor South S. fourteenth Piece from } Welney,		50	00	2

A a 4

4000 00



	A.	R.	P.	S.
416	0	0	1	
548	0	0	2	
1008	0	0	3	
1544	0	0	4	
484	0	0	5	

Edward Partheriche, Samuel Fortrey, Richard Marriott,  
John Mingay, Anthony Hammond, Mark Le Pla,  
John Bridgman.

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The TWELFTH LOT.

A. R. P. S.

1	Waterbeach Joist Fen, Wicken Lammas Ground adjoining to Joist Fen, and the several Grounds of Edwards, Peytons and Daltons,	250 0 0 4
2	Sutton Grounds South of Bedford River lying next to the Grounds of Sutton of the first Lot,	109 2 0 5
3	Part of Sutton West Fen,	B. 10 2 0 5
4	Croyle in Swaffham,	B. 200 0 0 2
5	One Several in Woodwalton,	36 0 0 6
6	The Remainder of Sawtree Fen from the King's Part,	6 2 0 1
7	Severals of Chartresse,	A. 230 0 0 5
8	Helgay and Southery Common,	D. 300 0 0 3
9	Townmoor, &c.	M. 200 0 0 2
10	Whelpmoor, &c. F. Mr. Bradborne next the Droveway,	40 0 0 4
	The other,	522 0 0 2
11	Ladus Fen,	E. 115 0 0 4
12	Downham in the Isle Common and Seve- ral 390 Acres,	302 0 0 1
	Whereof exchanged 88 Acres for 88 Acres in Cowe Fen,	88 0 0 7
13	Elme Common and Severals,	250 0 0 4
14	West Fen and West Fen Close, D. Mr. Bradborne and Pemberton,	112 0 0 4
	The others,	388 0 0 3
15	Stoney and Block Fen Common,	D. 400 0 0 4
16	Somertham Common,	E. 333 0 0 4
17	Langbeach Several in Upwell,	7 2 0 5

Carried over 3900 0 0

R. P. S.  
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riott,  
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The

	A. R. P. S.
Brought over,	3900 0 0
18 Westmoor North F. sixth Piece from Welney.	50 0 0 3
19 Westmoor South M. ninth Piece from Welney,	50 0 0 2

4000 0 0

308 2 0 1

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The THIRTEENTH LOT.

		A. R. P. S.
1	N Eatmoor by Upwell,	B. 250 0 0 4
2	Wicken High Fen A. next } towards Wicken,	120 0 0 7
3	Hale Fen near Coveney,	180 0 0 3
4	Burwell Common,	B. 293 0 0 1
5	Sir Robert Heath's several Grounds in } Soham,	420 0 0 2
6	Lakeingheath Severals,	94 0 0 3
7	Townmoor, &c.	N. 200 0 0 1
8	South Cloud a Common of Lakeingheath,	47 0 0 3
9	Mildenhall, &c. E. 300 Acres, } Nearest the River,	150 0 0 2 150 0 0 3
10	Sir Miles Sandys imbanked Grounds A. } next Priest Houses,	70 0 0 3
11	Mr. Hawkin's Crouchmoor next Hale Fen,	45 0 0 3
12	Wereham, Wretton and Stoake Com- } mon B. next towards Dereham,	200 0 0 2
13	Stilton Common,	160 0 0 4
14	West Fen and West Fen Close,	E. 500 0 0 3
15	Warboys, &c.	D. 500 0 0 3
16	Upwood Fen adjoining to Whittlesey Way,	405 0 0 2
17	Sir Oliver Cromwell's Severals,	B. 69 0 0 4
18	Severals of Welney,	20 2 10 5
19	Severals of March and Doddington,	26 1 30 4
20	Westmoor North C. sixteenth Piece } from Welney,	50 0 0 3
21	Westmoor South E. sixteenth Piece } from Welney.	50 0 0 2
		<hr/> 4000 0 0 <hr/>



A.	R.	P.S.
493	0	0 1
1225	0	0 2
1636	0	0 3
505	1	30 4
20	2	10 5
120	0	0 7

Edward Partheriche, Samuel Fortrey, Richard Marriott,  
John Mingay, Anthony Hammond, Mark Le Pla,  
John Bridgman.

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The FOURTEENTH LOT.

		A.	R.	P.	S.	
1	I Sleham Common	D. }	100	0	0	2
	Nearest the River,	}	100	0	0	3
2	Over Common,		171	0	0	11
3	Wicken Sedge Fen,		300	0	0	2
4	Mr. Barrow's Sedge Severals,		21	0	0	2
5	Fordham Common,		27	0	0	2
6	Wicham Severals,	B.	56	0	0	5
7	Croylode in Somersham,		70	0	0	5
8	Helgay and Southery Common,	E.	282	0	0	3
9	Mildenhall, &c. F. 325 Acres,	}	162	2	0	2
	Nearest the River,	}	162	2	0	2
10	Whelpemoor, &c.	G.	454	0	0	2
11	Sutton in Holland,	B.	115	0	0	5
12	Horningsey High Fen,		100	0	0	2
13	Burrowmoor in March,		500	0	0	4
14	Dr. Sam's Horsemoor imbanked,		225	0	0	3
15	Stoney Fen Several,	A.	300	0	0	3
16	Warboys, &c.	E.	500	0	0	4
17	Ramsfey Common by Delph Dike,		108	0	0	4
18	Feltwell Severals,		146	0	0	1
19	Westmoor North, S. the eighteenth } Piece from Welney,	}	50	0	0	3
20	Westmoor South, D. the seventeenth } Piece from Welney,	}	50	0	0	2
			<hr/>			
			4000	0	0	
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			146	0	0	1
			1214	2	0	2
			1119	2	0	3
			1108	0	0	4
			241	0	0	5
			171	0	0	11

The FIFTEENTH LOT.

	A.	R.	P.	S.
1 Swaffham High Fen,	B.	200	00	4
2 Hempshall in Wivelingham,		53	00	10
3 Sutton West Fen,	C.	117	00	5
4 Wisbich Common,	B.	313	00	4
5 Burwell Common,	C.	160	00	2
6 Great Metlam, Little Metlam and the Haffe in Soham,	A }	500	00	2
7 Townmoor, &c.	G.	200	00	1
8 Mildenhall, &c. G. 300 Acres,		150	00	2
Nearest the River,		150	00	3
9 Thorney Farm by Stuntney,		47	00	4
10 Quaney Farm,		12	00	4
11 Richard Ward's Severals in Littleport by Prat's Weare,		3	00	4
12 Severals of Welney Chapel in Littleport,		1	00	4
13 Sutton in Holland,	C.	95	00	5
14 Mr. Gibbons Ground in Southery lying by Priest Houses,		20	00	5
15 Shevens in Well next to the Town of Upwel,		100	00	4
16 White Fen in Swaffham next Botsham High Fen,		200	00	1
17 Normoor in Chartresse,	D.	410	00	4
18 Stoney Fen Severals,	B.	300	00	4
19 Warboys, &c.	F.	500	00	4
20 Methwold Severals, 357 Acres,		257	00	8
Mr. Moore,		100	00	2
21 Severals of Mr. Strange in Londoners Fen,		12	00	4
22 Westmoor North L. eleventh Piece from Welney,		50	00	5

Carried over 3950 00

Brought over, 3950 0 0  
 3 Westmoor South N. eighth Piece from? 50 0 0 2  
 Welney, 5

R. P. S.	A. R. P. S.
	4000 0 0
	400 0 0 1
	1117 0 0 2
	200 0 0 3
	1998 0 0 4
	232 0 0 5
	53 0 0 10

Edward Partheriche, Samuel Fortrey, Richard Marriott,  
 John Mingay, Anthony Hammond, Mark Le Pla,  
 John Bridgman.



The SIXTEENTH LOT.

	A. R. P. S.
1 Waterbeach, &c.	B. 250 0 0
2 Byall Fen South of Bedford River, next Oxwillow Lode,	} 100 0 0
3 Sutton West Fen,	D. 20 0 0
4 Wisbich Common lying between More- ton's Leam and the twenty-five Foot Drain,	} 424 2 0
5 The Remainder of Holme Fen from the Earl of Portland's Part,	} 49 0 0
6 Helgay and Souhery Common,	F. 300 0 0
7 Lakeingheath Townmoors,	P. 295 0 0
8 Mildenhall, &c. I. 300 Acres, Nearest the River,	} 150 0 0 } 150 0 0
9 Feltwell South Fen and Mow Fen,	C. 166 0 0
10 Sutton in Holland,	D. 115 0 0
11 Maney Common Several,	250 0 0
12 Normoor in Chartresse,	C. 400 0 0
13 Great Bynnamoor and Graye's Fen in Doddington next to Graye's Fen,	} 294 0 0
14 Stoney Fen Severals,	C. 425 0 0
15 Warboys, &c.	G. 500 0 0
16 Several of Doddington,	11 2 0
17 Westmoor North, R. the seventeenth Piece from Welney,	} 50 0 0
18 Westmoor South, I. the twelfth Piece from Welney,	} 50 0 0
	<hr/> 4000 0 0
	719 2 0
	760 0 0
	1000 0 0
	1336 2 0
	135 0 0
	49 0 0
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The SEVENTEENTH LOT.

		A.	R.	P.	S.
1	W Aterbeach, &c.	C.	201	3	0 4
	2 Byall Fen South next to- wards Mepall,	} 100 0 0 2			
3	Fidwell Fen in Streatham,		60	0	0 4
4	Little Shelford in Wivelingham,		7	1	0 11
5	By Erith Sluce,		2	0	0 11
6	Wisbich Common,	A.	473	0	0 4
7	Great Metlam, &c.	B.	500	0	0 2
8	Feltwell South Fen and Mow Fen,	D.	269	0	0 2
9	Hockwold and Wilton Common,	C.	293	0	0 1
10	Ladus Fen,	F.	105	0	0 4
11	Mr. Pratts Severals in Hockwold,		10	0	0 2
12	Shevens next towards Welney,		100	0	0 4
13	White Fen next towards the hard Lands,		211	0	0 1
14	Witch Fen and Stowe Fen in March,		200	0	0 2
15	Dikeamoor,	B.	200	0	0 3
16	Stoney Fen Severals,	D.	300	0	0 3
17	Warboys, &c.	H.	500	0	0 3
18	Mr. Payton's Severals by Hobb's Dike in March,	} 133 0 20 4			
19	Peter William's adjoining Severals,		34	2	10 4
20	White Fen A. Several by Benwick,		119	1	0 3
21	Brown's Fen by Benwick a Several of Dr. Sam's,	} 50 0 20 4			
22	Severals of Well and Welney,		30	3	30 5
23	Westmoor North, V. twentieth Piece from Welney,	} 50 0 0 3			
24	Westmoor South B. the nineteenth Piece from Welney,	} 50 0 0 2			
	B b		4000	0	0

A.	R.	P.	S.
504	0	0	1
1129	0	0	2
1169	1	0	3
1157	2	10	4
30	3	30	5
9	1	0	11

Edward Partheriche, Samuel Fortrey, Richard Marriott,  
John Mingay, Anthony Hammond, Mark Le Pla,  
John Bridgman.

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The EIGHTEENTH LOT.

	A.	R.	P.	S.
1 <b>N</b> Eatmoor,	C. 250	0	0	4
2 Wicken High Fen,	30	0	0	5
3 Langmoor and Boatgangs in Stretham,	17	2	0	6
4 Sutton Westfen,	E. 73	2	0	5
5 Wisbich Common,	C. 473	0	0	4
6 Soham Commons in Great Metlam	569	0	0	2
7 Two Severals of Soham,	9	0	0	6
8 Hockwold and Wilton Common,	D. 182	0	0	2
9 Mildenhall, &c. H 300. Acres,	150	0	0	2
Nearest the River,	150	0	0	3
10 Mr. Gibbon's Grounds, call Warners,	B. 75	0	0	3
11 Throckenholt,	B. 40	0	0	6
12 Ashwell Moor by Coveney, the South- West Part,	271	0	0	3
13 Rough Westmoor in Chartresse,	A. 300	0	0	4
14 Horsemoor,	C. 200	0	0	3
15 Warboys, &c.	I. 500	0	0	3
16 Middle Moor,	D. 300	0	0	3
17 Great Bynnamoor and Gray's Fen next towards the River of Neane,	200	0	0	2
18 Marmound, a Several in Upwell,	27	1	0	6
19 The several Grounds in Well by News Cote,	17	3	0	5
20 Severals of Doddington,	65	0	0	4
21 Westmoor North P. fifteenth Piece from Welney,	50	0	0	3
22 Westmoor South, F. fifteenth Piece from Welney,	50	0	0	2
	4000	0	0	
	1151	0	0	2
	1546	0	0	3
	1088	0	0	4
	121	1	0	5
	93	3	0	6



The NINETEENTH LOT.

		A.	R.	P.	S.
1	<b>W</b> Aterbeach Fen by Garden Tree,	112	00	7	
2	Cottenham Common,	240	00	9	
3	Sutton in the Meadlands next towards Westfen,	18	00	6	
4	Wisbich Common,	D. 473	00	4	
5	Mildenhall, &c. K. 300 Acres,	150	00	2	
	Nearest the River,	150	00	3	
6	Whelpmoor, &c.	H. 760	00	2	
7	Mr. Tower's Crouchmoor in Littleport,	70	00	3	
8	Part of Mr. Hawkin's Crouchmoor,	10	00	2	
9	Throcken Holt,	C. 35	00	6	
10	Ashwell Moor next to Downham West Fen,	152	00		
11	Rough Westmoor in Chartresse, next to Beezling's Fen,	B. 296	00		
12	Dikeamoore,	C. 200	00		
13	Warboys, &c.	K. 550	00		
14	Middlemoor in Ramsey,	E. 375	00		
15	Feltwell Severals,	C. 309	00		
16	Westmoor North I. ninth Piece from Welney.	50	00		
17	Westmoor South Q. fifth Piece from Welney,	50	00		
		4000 00			

Edward  
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[ 373 ]

A. R. P. S.

309 0 0 1

960 0 0 2

1182 0 0 3

1144 0 0 4

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112 0 0 7

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Edward Partheriche, Samuel Fortrey, Richard Marriott,  
John Mingay, Anthony Hammond, Mark Le Pla,  
John Bridgman.

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The TWENTIETH LOT.

	A.	R.	P.	S.
1 <b>T</b> horney Knare Fen,	39	00	00	3
2 Westmoor North of Bedford River, B. the Second Piece from Wel-	50	00	00	3
ney,				
3 Westmoor South, L. tenth Piece from Welney,	50	00	00	2
	40	00	00	
	50	00	00	2
	39	50	00	3

The three thousand Acres overplus.

	A.	R.	P.	S.
26 <b>W</b> oodwalton Common,	937	00	00	2
27 Higney Grounds,	100	00	00	3
28 Part of Holme Fen,	963	00	00	6
29 Part of Byall Fen next to Maney,	1000	00	00	4
	3000	00	00	
	937	00	00	2
	100	00	00	3
	1000	00	00	4
	963	00	00	6

In Pursuance of an Act of this present Parliament, intituled, *An Act for the Taxing and Assessing of the Lands of the Adventurers within the Great Level of the Fens*, We whose Names are here subscribed; thereby constituted and appointed (with others) Surveyors and Valuers of eighty-three thousand Acres, Parcel of ninety-five thousand Acres within the said Level, having first taken the Oath prescribed by the said Act for the faithful Discharge of the Trust reposed in us; for the surveying, sorting; dividing and rating the said eighty-three thousand Acres, do make our Return of this Survey made by us, consisting of eleven several Degrees and Sorts, into the Fen Office, to be taxed and rated accordingly; viz. That the first Sort being taxed at four Pence *per* Acre; the second Sort to be taxed at eight Pence *per* Acre, and so every Degree to be gradually rated and taxed; whereby the eleventh Degree at the said Proportion will be three Shillings eight Pence upon such tax proposed as aforesaid, and so proportionably for any greater or lesser Sum that shall be laid and imposed. And to each Schedule (being in Number eleven together annexed) have subscribed our Names this fifteenth Day of *August* in the twentieth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord *Charles* the Second, by the Grace of God, of *England*, *Scotland*, *France* and *Ireland* King, Defender of the Faith, &c. *Annoque Domini* 1668.

*Edward Partheriche, Samuel Fortrey, Richard Marryott, John Mingay, Anthony Hammond, Mark Le Pla, John Bridgman.*



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Anno Regni  
J A C O B I II.  
R E G I S

*Angliæ, Scotiæ, Franciæ & Hiberniæ,*  
P R I M O.

At the Parliament begun at *Westmin-*  
*ster* the nineteenth Day of *May*  
*Anno Dom.* 1685, in the first Year  
of the Reign of our most Gracious  
Sovereign Lord *JAMES*, by the  
Grace of God, of *England, Scotland,*  
*France* and *Ireland* King, Defender  
of the Faith, &c.

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ANNO REGNI  
JACOBI II.

RECORDS

of the Parliament begun at Newcastle

in the year

of the reign of our most Gracious  
Sovereign Lord WILLIAM VI.  
God of God of England, Scotland,  
France and Ireland King, Defender  
of the Faith, &c.

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JACOB I II. Regis.

An Act for repealing a Clause for dividing of Commons in an Act of Parliament made in the fifteenth Year of King *Charles* the Second, intituled, *An Act for settling the Draining of the Great Level of the Fens called Bedford Level.*

**W**HEREAS in and by an Act Recital of  
of Parliament made in the fif- 15 Car. 2.  
teenth Year of the Reign of his  
late Majesty King *Charles* the  
Second, of ever Blessed Memory, intituled,  
*An Act for settling the Draining of the Great  
Level of the Fens called Bedford Level,* there is Clause therein  
a Proviso, and it was enacted, That it should giving Lords  
and might be lawful for any Person or Persons, of Manors  
Bodies Politick or Corporate, their Heirs and Power to in-  
Successors, that were or should be Lords of close and di-  
Manors, or have Right of Common in the vide Com-  
mons.  
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Commons and Wastes in the said Level, or within any Town, Parish or Place into which the Works of Draining or any of them did extend, to improve, set out and inclose, divide and sever, such Proportion or Proportions as to them should or might severally and respectively belong, or be adjudged and allotted unto them in Severalty by certain Commissioners appointed in the said Act, and as they should adjudge and determine, as by the said Clause in the said Act more fully appears.

In Pursuance thereof many Lords have divided and inclosed.

Taking and cutting Commons into small Pieces found to be very prejudicial;

occasions Decrease of Stock and Houses.

And whereas since the passing of the said Act several Lords of Manors, and others who had Right of Common in the said Commons and Wastes, did divide and take their said Shares or Proportions thereof.

And whereas such taking and cutting of the said Commons and Wastes into small Pieces is since found to be very prejudicial to the Owners and Country, being a great Waste of Ground in Division, which are hard to be kept as Fences between Party and Party, the Roadways and Passages through such Commons as set forth being very low, and generally in bad Ground, not passable or well to be amended, whereby such Divisions are of little Value.

And whereas it occasions great Diminution of Stock and Decay of Houses, many Persons selling their Shares of Common from the House it belongs unto, to a great Impoverishment and Increase of the Poor; to prevent any further Inconveniencies thereby, Be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with

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with the Advice and Assent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in this Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That the said Clause in the said Act for such dividing and inclosing, shall be repealed, and is hereby repealed and made void, to all Intents and Purposes; and that no more Divisions or Inclosures shall be hereafter made of the said Wastes and Commons therein mentioned pursuant to the said Act; any Thing therein contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

**Provided** always, and it is further enacted, That all Inclosures already made, and certified into the Petty-bag Office pursuant to the said Act, shall be held and enjoyed by the Owners thereof, as fully to all Intents and Purposes as if this Act had not been made.

**And** whereas several Persons and Townships finding the Inconveniencies of dividing and cutting aforesaid, did come unto Agreements and bound themselves not to divide, but to feed and order the said Commons and Wastes by Way of an equal Stint of Cattle in a like Proportion, to their great Advantage and Improvement; and those Agreements have been confirmed by the Decrees of his Majesty's High Court of *Chancery*.

**Be** it therefore enacted, That all such Agreements so made and confirmed by the Decrees as aforesaid, shall be and are hereby ratified and binding to all such Person or Persons who were Parties consenting to the same, and all claiming by, from or under them, or any of them, and according as in the said Decrees are expressed and contained.

**And**

Decrees and  
Adjudications  
for Inclosures,  
&c. already  
made, and not  
returned into  
the Petty-bag  
Office, if re-  
turned before  
June 24,  
1686, to be  
good;

otherwise to  
be null and  
void.

And whereas divers Persons have had Decrees and Adjudications for Inclosures and Allotments within the said Level already made, by Commissioners in the said Act appointed pursuant to the same Act, have neglected to get the said Decrees and Adjudications to be signed, sealed and certified into the Petty-bag Office, as by the said Act is directed; It is now further provided and enacted, That so many of the said Decrees and Adjudications already made and imperfect as aforesaid, which shall be made perfect by being signed and sealed by the said Commissioners, and certified into the Petty-bag Office in such Manner as by the said Act is appointed, before the four and twentieth Day of *June*, which shall be in the Year of our Lord one thousand six hundred eighty-six, shall be good and valid in Law to all Intents and Purposes as if the same had been so perfected at the Time of making this Act, and all Inclosures and Allotments by Virtue thereof shall be enjoyed by the respective Persons interested as if this Act had never been made. And all such of the said Decrees, which shall not be perfected by the said Time in Manner and Form aforesaid, shall be utterly void and null to all Intents and Purposes whatsoever, and all Inclosures by Virtue thereof shall be thrown open as if such Decrees or Adjudications had never been made; any Thing in this Act or in any Law, Statute or Usage contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

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Anno Regni

GEORGE II.

REGIS

*Magnæ Britanniae, Franciæ & Hiberniæ,*

VICESIMO SEPTIMO.

At the Parliament begun and holden  
at *Westminster* the tenth Day of *November* *Anno Dom.* 1747, in the  
twenty-first Year of the Reign of  
our Sovereign Lord *GEORGE* the  
Second, by the Grace of God, of  
*Great Britain, France and Ireland*  
King, Defender of the Faith, &c.

And from thence continued by several Proro-  
gations to the fifteenth Day of *November*  
1753, being the Seventh Session of this pre-  
sent Parliament.

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Anno vicesimo septimo

GEORGII II. Regis.

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An Act for discharging the Corporation of the Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Company of Conservators of the Great Level of the Fens, commonly called *Bedford Level*, from a Debt due to the Duke of *Bedford* and Earl of *Lincoln*; and for enabling the Proprietors of Lands in the *North Level*, Part of the said Great Level, to raise Money to discharge the Proportion of the said *North Level* in the Debts of the said Corporation; and for ascertaining and appropriating the Taxes to be laid on

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the said *North Level*; and for the more effectual draining and preserving the said *North Level*, and divers Lands adjoining thereto in the Manor of *Crowland*.

Preamble, reciting  
Clauses  
in Act 15 Car.  
2.

and Law of  
Sewers in  
6 Car. 1.

**W**HEREAS by an Act of Parliament made and passed in the fifteenth Year of the Reign of his late Majesty King *Charles* the Second, intituled, *An Act for settling the draining of the Great Level of the Fens called Bedford Level*, reciting, That *Francis* Earl of *Bedford*, according to a Law of Sewers made at King's *Lynn* in the sixth Year of the Reign of his late Majesty King *Charles* the First, had undertaken the draining of the said Great Level therein mentioned to be situate within the Counties of *Northampton*, *Norfolk*, *Suffolk*, *Lincoln*, *Cambridge* and *Huntingdon*, and the Isle of *Ely*, and therein particularly bounded and described; and that he was to have for his Recompence ninety-five thousand Acres of the Ground within the said Level, with convenient Highways and Passages to the same, and the new River, Cuts and Drains to be made by the said Earl and his Assigns, and the Banks of the same, and the Forclands in the inside of the said Banks not to exceed sixty Foot in Breadth; and that *William* Earl of *Bedford*, Son and Heir of the said Earl *Francis*

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 cis, with divers of his Adventurers and Parti-  
 cipants, had proceeded in the compleating  
 and finishing the said Works; but that the  
 same could not be preserved without constant  
 Care, great Charge and orderly Government;  
 it was therefore (amongst other Things) enact-  
 ed, That the said *William* Earl of *Bedford*,  
 and the Adventurers and Participants of the  
 said Earl *Francis* and Earl *William*, or either  
 of them, their Heirs and Assigns, in such  
 Manner as therein after is contained, should  
 be a Body Politick and Corporate in Deed and  
 Name, and have Succession for ever, by the  
 Name of *The Governor, Bailiffs and Common-  
 alty of the Company of Conservators of the Great  
 Level of the Fens*, with Power to lay and levy  
 Taxes upon the said ninety-five thousand Acres  
 only, for Support, Maintenance and Preser-  
 vation of the said Great Level, and do all  
 other Things in order to the Support, Main-  
 tenance and Preservation of the said Great  
 Level and Works made, and to be made, in  
 such Manner as therein is mentioned; and  
 taking Notice, that by the said Law of Sew-  
 ers twelve thousand Acres, Parcel of the said  
 ninety-five thousand Acres, were designed and  
 intended to his said late Majesty King *Charles*  
 the First, and had been set forth and allotted  
 by Bounds in Severalty; and that his said  
 late Majesty had granted two thousand Acres,  
 Part thereof, to *Jerome* Earl of *Portland*, his  
 Heirs and Assigns; and that the said Earl had  
 sold about one thousand five hundred Acres,  
 Part of the said two thousand Acres, to sever-  
 al Persons, and had conveyed the remaining



five hundred Acres to *Benjamin Weston*, Esq; on several Trusts; it was thereby further enacted, That the said two thousand Acres, or such other Lands of equal Value as should be set forth in Exchange of the same, should be and were thereby vested, settled and established in the said several Persons, their Heirs and Assigns respectively, to whom the said Earl of *Portland* had conveyed the same, to be held of the King's Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, of the Manor of *East Greenwich*, by Fealty only, in free and common Soccage, subject nevertheless with the Residue of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, in equal Proportion to all Taxes and Charges necessary and conducing to the Preservation of the said Great Level from drowning; and it was thereby further enacted, that the eighty-three thousand Acres, Remainder of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, with the said Ways, Passages, new Rivers, Cuts, Drains, Banks and Forelands, over and above the said ten thousand Acres, Residue of the said twelve thousand Acres which were allotted in Severalty, and of which his said late Majesty was in Possession, were thereby vested and settled in the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty and their Successors, in Trust for the said *William* Earl of *Bedford*, and the Adventurers and Participants of the said Earl *Francis* and Earl *William*, or either of them, their Heirs and Assigns, in such Manner as is therein after limited and provided, and according to such Parts and Proportions as they respectively then held and enjoyed, or by Virtue of the

said Act ought to hold and enjoy, subject and liable likewise to the Payment of all Taxes and Charges as aforesaid, to be held of the King's Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, of the Manor of *East Greenwich*, by Fealty, in free and common Soccage; and the said ten thousand Acres were thereby vested in his then present Majesty, and his Assigns, subject and liable with the Residue of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, to the same Taxes and Charges before specified; and it is thereby further enacted, That the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators of the said Corporation for the Time being, or any five or more of them, whereof the said Governor or Bailiffs, or their Successors, or any of them, to be two, for Maintenance and Preservation of the said Great Level, by convenient Outfalls to the Sea, should for ever thereafter be and were thereby made and constituted Commissioners of Sewers for and of the said Great Level of the Fens; and the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators, or any five or more of them, whereof the said Governor or Bailiffs, and their Successors, or any of them, to be two, are thereby enabled and impowered from thenceforth, to use and exercise the Power and Authority of Commissioners of Sewers within the said Great Level of the Fens, and of the Works made and to be made without the said Great Level, for conveying the Waters of the said Great Level by convenient Outfalls to the Sea, in such Manner and with such other Powers, Jurisdictions and Authorities as are therein mentioned and contained:

And

and 20 Car. 2. And whereas by another Act of Parliament made and passed in the twentieth Year of his said late Majesty King *Charles* the Second, intituled, *An Act for the taxing and assessing of the Lands of the Adventurers within the Great Level of the Fens*, after reciting in part the last recited Act, and that the Way therein mentioned of raising Draining Taxes upon the said ninety-five thousand Acres by an equal Acre-Rate had been found inconvenient, it was enacted, That all Taxes thereafter to be set and imposed for the Maintenance and Preservation of the said Great Level, should be from Time to Time assessed and taxed by the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators, or their Successors, or any five or more of them, whereof the said Governor and Bailiffs for the Time being, or any of them, to be two, upon the said eighty-three thousand Acres, Part and Parcel of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, by a gradual Acre-tax of different Sorts and Values of Lands, to be received, paid and levied by such Ways and Means as in the said recited Act are provided; and that the said eighty-three thousand Acres, for raising Taxes for Support and Maintenance of the Great Level, should not be rated or assessed otherwise or in any other Manner than according to a gradual Acre-tax of different Sorts and Degrees, and according to the respective Values and Rates thereby set and rated, and to be set and rated, as is therein after appointed: And it was thereby further enacted, That when and so often as the Sum of six thousand one hundred and ten Pounds

seven

seven Shillings and one Peny Halfpeny should be taxed and assessed upon the said ninety-five thousand Acres, that then the said twelve thousand Acres should be rated and assessed at fifteen Pence the Acre, and according to that Proportion for the raising of any greater or lesser Sum than six thousand one hundred and ten Pounds seven Shillings and one Peny Halfpeny, to be received, paid and levied, together with Penalties, in such and the like Manner as the Taxes set and imposed, or to be set and imposed, upon the said eighty-three thousand Acres, are thereby provided for to be received, paid and levied: And to the End that the said eighty-three thousand Acres might be more equally rated by a gradual Acre-tax, not under the Number of seven Sorts, it was thereby further enacted, That certain Persons in the same Act named, or any three or more of them, were thereby constituted and appointed to be Surveyors and Valuers of the said eighty-three thousand Acres, and were, within the Time therein limited, to digest the said eighty-three thousand Acres into such Number of Sorts or Degrees of Land, not under the Number of seven Sorts and Degrees, and to rate and tax such Degrees, and digest the same into Schedules in Writing, and make Returns thereof, upon their Oaths, into the Fen Office, in such Manner as in and by the said Act is mentioned and directed: And whereas the several Persons, by the said last recited Act appointed to be Surveyors or Valuers, valued and set out the said eighty-three thousand Acres, according to the Directions thereby given,



into eleven different Sorts or Degrees or Land, to be rated and taxed in manner following; that is to say, for a single Tax, four Pence *per* Acre on the first Sort of Land; eight Pence *per* Acre on the second Sort; and so increasing four Pence upon every Sort, the eleventh Sort to be taxed at three Shillings and eight Pence; and all greater or less Sums which the said Corporation should have occasion to raise, were to be rated and assessed in the like Proportions; which Valuations of the said Surveyors were returned by them into the Fen Office, as by the said last mentioned Act was directed; and the said eighty-three thousand Acres have always since been taxed according to the Degrees and Proportions thereby set out and allotted, calling a Tax of four Pence on the first Sort of Land, and increasing on the ten other Sorts in manner aforesaid, a single Tax; five Pence a Tax and Quarter; six Pence a Tax and half; seven Pence a Tax and three Quarters; and eight Pence a double Tax: And whereas at a Court of the said Corporation, held the tenth Day of *March* one thousand six hundred and ninety-seven, the said Corporation declared that the said Great Level should be distinguished by the several Names of the *North Level*, *Middle Level* and *South Level*; and that all that Part of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, which lay between the North Side of *Moreton's Leame* and the South Side of *Welland River*, should be accounted that Part of the ninety-five thousand Acres lying within the *North Level*: And whereas the said Corporation, in order to support

Court of Corporation held  
10 March  
1697.

Land, support and preserve the several Works for  
 wing; draining the said Great Level, were obliged  
 Pence to borrow several Sums of Money on Bonds  
 eight under their common Seal, and by that Means,  
 so in- at *Lady-day* one thousand seven hundred and Debt of Cor-  
 he ele- twenty-eight, had contracted Debts, amount- poration at  
 gs and- ing in the whole to the principal Sum of se- *Lady-day*  
 Sums- venteen thousand one hundred and fifty Pounds; 1728.  
 e occa- and some new Works being necessary for bet-  
 effered in- ter draining the said North Level, Part of the  
 s of the- said Great Level, by Indenture bearing Date  
 into the- the twenty-ninth Day of *May* one thousand  
 ed Act- seven hundred and twenty-eight, and made or  
 e thou- mentioned to be made between the Governor,  
 xed ac- Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Company of  
 s there- Conservators of the said Great Level of the  
 of four- Fens of the one Part, and the most Noble  
 creasing- *William Duke of Devonshire*, Guardian of the  
 e said, a- most Noble *Wriothesley* then Duke of *Bedford*,  
 Quarter; a Minor, and the Right Honourable *Henry*  
 e a Tax- then Earl of *Lincoln* of the other Part; after  
 a double- reciting the said Act of the fifteenth Year of  
 aid Cor- his late Majesty King *Charles* the Second, and  
 rch one- that the said Great Level of the Fens was then  
 the said- distinguished by the several Names of the  
 at Level- North Level, the Middle Level and the South  
 Names- Level, and that such Part of the said Great  
 d *South*- Level, as was distinguished by the Name of  
 the said- the North Level, did contain about forty  
 between- thousand Acres of Land, of which there were  
 and the- about eleven thousand six hundred Acres of  
 be ac- Land subject to the said Taxes, and that the  
 thousand- said Duke of *Bedford* and Earl of *Lincoln* were  
 l: And- Owners and Proprietors of great Part thereof;  
 order to- and further reciting, that the said Duke of  
 support- *De-*

*Devonshire* as Guardian of the said Duke of *Bedford*, and the said Earl of *Lincoln*, for the Preservation of the respective Estates of the said Duke of *Bedford* and Earl of *Lincoln* in the said North Level, did in the then last Summer actually lay out and expend the Sum of three thousand four hundred Pounds the Monies of the said Duke of *Bedford* and Earl of *Lincoln* in Proportion to their said respective Estates, in regaining and keeping open the Outfall for the Waters of the said North Level to Sea, and in doing several other necessary and material Works, which had tended greatly towards the Draining and Preservation of all the Estates in the said North Level; but by reason of the many and frequent Floods which had of late Years happened, and the Insufficiency of the Banks and Works of the said North Level to resist the same, and particularly by reason of the Weakness and Lowness of the Bank on the North Side of *Moreton's Leam* Wash next the said North Level, the greatest Part of the Lands within the said Level had then lately been and were subject to be drowned, so that little or no Profit could be made thereof, nor could the said North Level be effectually drained or secured for the future, unless the said North Bank was to be enlarged and strengthened; and therefore the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty had resolved to make a Canal in the said Wash, and other Works there, for strengthening and enlarging the said North Bank, the Charge of all which would amount at least to six thousand six hundred Pounds; and further reciting,

ting, the said his Com the Re Comm fix thou aforese tive E the said had a Rents of the should well of Pound thousa and In Centum propos Earl o rection fix hun and o Duke ring th and af Earl Affign and M and R them repair said M such condu

ting, that the said Duke of *Devonshire*, on the said Duke of *Bedford's* Behalf and with his Consent, and the said Earl of *Lincoln*, at the Request of the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty, had agreed to advance the said six thousand six hundred Pounds for the Purposes aforesaid, in Proportion to their said respective Estates in the said North Level, and that the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty had agreed that the Taxes, Revenues and Rents annually laid and arising upon and out of the Lands in the said North Level only, should be made a Security for Repayment as well of the said three thousand four hundred Pounds then already laid out, as for the said six thousand six hundred Pounds to be laid out, and Interest at the Rate of four Pounds *per Centum per Annum*, and were desirous and had proposed that the said Duke of *Devonshire* and Earl of *Lincoln* should have not only the Direction and Disposal of the said six thousand six hundred Pounds in making the said Canal and other new Works, but also that the said Duke of *Devonshire* and Earl of *Lincoln*, during the Minority of the said Duke of *Bedford*, and afterwards the said Duke of *Bedford* and Earl of *Lincoln*, their respective Heirs and Assigns, should have the Direction, Disposal and Management of the said Taxes, Revenues and Rents of the said North Level to be by them employed and disposed in and about the repairing and maintaining the Works of the said North Level, and making and supporting such other Works as should be necessary or conducing to the effectual draining, securing and



and preserving of the said North Level, and for and towards the Payment of the said principal Sums of three thousand four hundred Pounds and six thousand six hundred Pounds with Interest as aforesaid, until the said principal Sums of three thousand four hundred Pounds and six thousand six hundred Pounds and Interest should be fully paid and satisfied; it is witnessed, that in Consideration of the Premises, and for securing the Repayment of the said several Sums of three thousand four hundred Pounds and six thousand six hundred Pounds and Interest as aforesaid, and for the better enabling the said Dukes of *Devonshire* and *Bedford* and the said Earl of *Lincoln* to compleat their good Designs of effectually draining, securing and preserving the said North Level, by making the said Canal and other Works, which the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty were sensible would be of great Benefit and Advantage to all the Estates in the same Level, they the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty, for themselves and their Successors, did covenant and agree to and with the said Dukes of *Devonshire* and *Bedford* and the said Earl of *Lincoln* respectively, and their respective Heirs and Assigns, that it should and might be lawful to and for the said Duke of *Devonshire* and Earl of *Lincoln*, their Agents or Servants duly authorized, during the Minority of the said Duke of *Bedford*, and after the said Duke of *Bedford* should have attained his Age of twenty-one Years, and should have confirmed that Agreement, for the said Duke of *Bedford* and Earl of *Lincoln*,

*Lincoln*, their respective Heirs and Assigns, their Agents or Servants duly authorized, without the Interruption or Denial of the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty, or their Successors, to ask for and demand, have, receive and take of and from the Receiver General for the Time being of the said Corporation yearly, and every Year, as the same should become due, and be paid to the said Receiver General, so much and such Part of the said Taxes to be annually laid on the said ninety-five thousand Acres, as should be the Share and Proportion of the Lands within the said North Level liable thereto, together with all other the Rents and Revenues whatsoever of the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty in the said North Level, including the Share and Proportion of the Taxes laid upon the Lands within the said North Level for that present Year, and the said Rents and Revenues due and payable for the same Time: And it was thereby declared and agreed, that the yearly Sum of one hundred Pounds, payable by the Heirs or Assigns of Sir *Charles Orby* deceased, to the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty, and their Successors, should be esteemed and taken as Part of the said Revenue arising within the said North Level; and the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty did thereby authorize, impower and require the said Receiver General for the Time being to pay yearly, and every Year, as the same should become due and be paid to him, all the said Taxes, Rents and Revenues of the said North Level, unto the said Dukes of *Devonshire*

*shire* and *Bedford* and Earl of *Lincoln* respectively, their respective Heirs and Assigns, or their Servants or Agents, without any further or other Warrant to be had from the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty for that Purpose: Provided, That the said Receiver General for the Time being should retain and keep so much of the said Taxes, Rents and Revenues of the said North Level, as should be sufficient to satisfy and discharge the yearly Interest of the principal Sum of two thousand Pounds, thentofore taken up upon the common Seal of the said Corporation for the Service of the said Level, until the principal Sum of two thousand Pounds should be paid off and discharged: And it was thereby declared and agreed, That the said Taxes, Rents and Revenues, so to be paid to the said Dukes of *Devonshire* and *Bedford* and Earl of *Lincoln* respectively, their Heirs or Assigns, should be retained, imployed, applied and disposed of, in the first Place, for repairing and maintaining all the Works of the said North Level, and making and supporting such other Works as should be necessary or conducing to the effectual Draining and Preservation of the same Level, and then for paying and satisfying to the said Dukes of *Devonshire* and *Bedford* and Earl of *Lincoln*, their respective Executors, Administrators and Assigns, according to their respective Proportions and Shares, Interest after the Rate of four Pounds *per Centum per Annum*, for the said several Sums of three thousand four hundred Pounds and six thousand six hundred Pounds, and then to take, retain

and keep the Surplus Money for and towards paying off and sinking the said Sums of three thousand four hundred Pounds and six thousand six hundred Pounds, in such Proportions and by such Payments as should be reasonable and convenient, until the same should be fully paid off and satisfied. And whereas the said Duke of *Bedford*, or the said Duke of *Devonshire* as his Guardian, and the said Earl of *Lincoln* laid out and expended the said Sum of six thousand six hundred Pounds, in Pursuance of the said Agreement, in the Works therein mentioned, and by Virtue of and under the said Agreement, the said Duke of *Bedford* and Earl of *Lincoln*, and their Representatives, have ever since continued in the Receipt of the Taxes, Rents and Revenues of the said North Level, but have been obliged to apply the greatest Part thereof for and towards the several Works for draining and preserving the said North Level; so that at *Lady-day* one thousand seven hundred and fifty-three the Sum of eighteen thousand nine hundred and thirteen Pounds, eleven Shillings and nine Pence was due for Principal and Interest of the said several Sums of three thousand four hundred Pounds and six thousand six hundred Pounds, five sixth Parts whereof is due and owing to the most Noble *John* now Duke of *Bedford*, as Executor of the last Will of the said *Wriothesley* late Duke of *Bedford*; and the remaining sixth Part thereof is due and owing to the Right Honourable *Henry* Earl of *Lincoln* as Administrator of the said *Henry* late Earl of *Lincoln*: And whereas the Sum of two thou-



thousand eight hundred and fifty Pounds, Part of the Debt owing by the said Corporation at *Lady-day* one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight, was due and owing to the said *Wriothesley* late Duke of *Bedford*, who afterwards in and by his last Will and Testament forgave and discharged the same, which reduced the Debt contracted by the said Corporation before the said Year one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight to fourteen thousand three hundred Pounds; and whereas ever since the making and executing the said recited Agreement, the said Dukes of *Bedford* and Earl of *Lincoln* have supported and maintained the Works, Banks and Drains of the said North Level, and the said Corporation have not been at any Charge or Expence in or about the same, but the said Corporation have since the said Year one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight borrowed several large Sums of Money on Bonds, under their common Seal, to the amount in the whole of fifteen thousand nine hundred and forty Pounds, all which has been by them laid out and expended in and about the said Middle and South Levels, and for supporting and preserving the Banks, Drains and Works thereof; so that the said Corporation is now indebted in the several Sums of Money following, that is to say, In the said Sum of fourteen thousand three hundred Pounds, contracted before the said Year one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight, for or on Account of the whole of the said Great Level; the said Sum of eighteen thousand nine hundred and thirteen Pounds, eleven

Shillings

Shillings and nine Pence, contracted since the said Year one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight for or on Account of and particularly charged upon the said North Level; and the said Sum of fifteen thousand nine hundred and forty Pounds contracted since the said Year one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight for or on Account of the said Middle and South Levels, amounting together to forty-nine thousand one hundred and fifty-three Pounds eleven Shillings and nine Pence: And whereas it has been found by Experience that the Taxes, Revenues and Rents arising and payable to the said Corporation out of the said North Level are not near sufficient to pay off and discharge the said Debt particularly charged thereon, and to defray the Charges and Expences of maintaining, supporting and keeping in Repair the several Works for draining thereof; and notwithstanding the greatest Part of the Revenues of the said North Level have ever since the said Year one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight been laid out in and about the same, the several Banks, Rivers, Sewers and Works of the same Level are become so greatly decayed and ruinous that great Part of the Lands in the same Level have lately been very frequently flooded, and unless some immediate Remedy be applied will become intirely drowned and of little or no Value: And whereas the Lands called *Portsand*, otherwise *Great Porsand*, Parcel of the Demesnes belonging to and lying within the Manor of *Crowland* in *South Holland* in the County of *Lincoln*, herein after

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particularly bounded and described, are subject also to be frequently flooded, and cannot be effectually drained and preserved without a large Expence; and whereas the said Lands called *Portsand*, otherwise *Great Porsand*, adjoin to the said North Level on the North Part thereof and lie convenient to be drained therewith, and it will be for the mutual Benefit and Advantage of the Proprietors or Owners thereof, and of the Proprietors or Owners of the Lands within the said North Level to join in one common Drainage; and in order thereto the Proprietors or Owners of the said Manor of *Crowland* and Lands called *Portsand*, otherwise *Great Porsand*, and the Proprietors or Owners of the greatest Part of the Lands within the said North Level, are willing and desirous that a sufficient Sum of Money for the effectual draining of all the said Lands shall be raised by a Tax upon all the said Lands, to be ordered, governed and disposed of in such manner as herein after is mentioned, provided that the said North Level be discharged from the Debts of the said Corporation, and that all the Taxes, Rents and Revenues, which shall hereafter arise and become payable to the said Corporation out of the said North Level, be applied under the Direction of the said Corporation for the Benefit of the said North Level only, in such manner as herein after is mentioned: And whereas the Taxes, Rents and Revenues, arising and payable to the said Corporation out of the said North Level, are about one eighth Part of the Taxes, Rents and Revenues arising and payable to the said Cor-

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Corporation out of the whole of the said Great Level of the Fens, and therefore the said North Level is subject and liable to raise and pay one eighth Part of the said Debt of fourteen thousand three hundred Pounds, which was contracted by the said Corporation before the said Year one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight, on Account of the whole of the said Great Level of the Fens; and in order to raise Money to pay off and discharge the same, it has been proposed that so much of the Taxes charged on the Corporation Lands within the said North Level, by Virtue of or under the said recited Act of the fifteenth of King *Charles* the Second, shall be sold in such manner as herein after is mentioned, as shall raise a sufficient Sum of Money for that Purpose: And whereas the said *John* Duke of *Bedford* and *Henry* Earl of *Lincoln*, being desirous to promote so good and beneficial an Undertaking, have consented and are willing to exonerate and discharge the said Corporation of and from the said Debt of eighteen thousand nine hundred and thirteen Pounds eleven Shillings and nine Pence, and to yield up and surrender all the Taxes, Rents and Revenues of the said North Level which they are intitled to receive by Virtue of and under the said recited Agreement, and to release and discharge all their Right, Title and Interest in and to the same, on Condition that the Taxes, Rents and Revenues of the said Middle and South Levels, be for the future only chargeable with the Residue of the said Debt of fourteen thousand three hundred Pounds contracted be-



fore the said Year one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight, and with the said Debt of fifteen thousand nine hundred and forty Pounds, contracted on Account of the said Middle and South Levels since the Year one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight; and that the said North Level, and the Taxes, Rents and Revenues thereof be fully and absolutely discharged of and from all the Debts of the said Corporation and every Part thereof: And whereas at a Court of the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Company of Conservators of the Great Level of the Fens, held at the Fen Office on *Saturday* the twenty fourth Day of *February* one thousand seven hundred and fifty-three, a Plan according to the said Proposals, and for effecting and carrying the said Undertaking into Execution, in such manner as herein after is mentioned, was laid before the said Court, and the said Court thereupon came to the following Resolutions, *videlicet*; That it appearing to the Board that the Debt due from this Corporation in the Year one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight was fourteen thousand three hundred Pounds, and that the Taxes upon all the three Levels at a Tax and a Quarter amount to six thousand three hundred and fourteen Pounds three Shillings and eleven Pence Halfpenny, of which the Tax arising from the North Level is seven hundred and seventy-seven Pounds three Shillings and four Pence Halfpenny, being about one eighth Part, it is the Opinion of this Board, that if his Grace the Duke of *Bedford* and Lord *Lin-*

coln remit the Debt of about nineteen thou-  
 sand Pounds, which is due to them under the  
 Agreements made with them by this Corpo-  
 ration in one thousand seven hundred and  
 twenty-eight, for draining the North Level,  
 and the Proprietors of the North Level will  
 pay one thousand eight hundred Pounds as  
 their Proportion of the said Debt of four-  
 teen thousand three hundred Pounds, it will be  
 for the Interest of the other two Levels for  
 this Corporation to consent, that the Lands of  
 the North Level be exonerated from the Pay-  
 ment of the Remainder of the said Debt and  
 the subsequent Debts of the Corporation by  
 the Act of Parliament intended to be applied  
 for, for the better draining of that Level: And  
 the remaining Part of the said Plan being read,  
 the Board resolved, that the same did not in  
 any wise appear to be prejudicial to either of  
 the Levels belonging to the said Corporation,  
 and therefore they did approve thereof: And  
 whereas the said Corporation and the Creditors  
 of the said Corporation, and the Proprietors  
 of the greatest Part of the taxable Lands  
 within the said Middle and South Levels, ha-  
 ving seen and considered the said Proposals,  
 approve thereof, and are willing and consent-  
 ing that the same should be carried into Exe-  
 cution: And whereas the effectual draining  
 and preserving the said North Level and the  
 said Lands within the Manor of *Crowland*,  
 which contain together about forty-eight thou-  
 sand Acres, would be of great Benefit and Ad-  
 vantage to the several Proprietors thereof, and  
 of Service to the Publick in general, and if

the Proposals and Agreements before mentioned are carried into Execution, it is apprehended and believed that the same may be effectually drained and preserved; but in regard the same cannot be effected, or the Money necessary for that Purpose raised, without the Aid and Authority of Parliament, Be it therefore enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Company of Conservators of the Great Level of the Fens and their Successors, and all and every the Taxes, Rents and Revenues arising and payable to the said Corporation by, from or out of the Lands in the said North Level or any Part thereof, and all and every other the Lands, Taxes, Rents and Revenues of the said Corporation shall be and are hereby fully and absolutely freed and discharged of and from the said Debt or Sum of eighteen thousand nine hundred and thirteen Pounds eleven Shillings and nine Pence, so as aforesaid due and owing to the said *John Duke of Bedford* and *Henry Earl of Lincoln*, by Virtue of and under the said recited Indenture of the twenty-ninth Day of *May* one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight, and every Part thereof, and all Interest payable for or in Respect thereof; and that the said recited Indenture of the twenty-ninth Day of *May* one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight shall be and is hereby enacted and declared to be from

The Corporation of Conservators of Bedford Level discharged from the Debt of 18913*l* 11*s*. 9*d*. due to John Duke of Bedford and Henry Earl of Lincoln;

and the recited Indenture of 29 May 1728, declared void.

from henceforth null and void; and the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty, and their Successors, and the said *John Duke of Bedford*, and *Henry Earl of Lincoln*, their respective Heirs, Executors, Administrators and Assigns, and the Heirs, Executors, Administrators and Assigns of the said *Wriothesley* late Duke of *Bedford*, and *Henry* late Earl of *Lincoln*, are hereby fully and absolutely freed and discharged of and from all and every the Covenants, Clauses, Articles, Conditions and Agreements in the said recited Indenture contained.

And whereas the said yearly Sum of one hundred Pounds, mentioned in the said recited Indenture of the twenty-ninth Day of *May* one thousand seven hundred and twenty eight to be payable by the Heirs or Assigns of Sir *Charles Orby*, deceased, to the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty, was payable in Pursuance of certain Articles of Agreement, made the tenth Day of *July*, which was in the Year of our Lord one thousand six Hundred and ninety-seven, between the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the one Part, and the said Sir *Charles Orby* of the other Part, for a Term of twenty-eight Years, which long since expired: Now for the obviating and avoiding all Doubts, Questions and Controversies which may any wise happen or arise in relation to the said yearly Sum of one hundred Pounds, or the Non-payment thereof, or any Arrears thereof; it is hereby further enacted

The Executors  
of Sir Charles

*Orby* and *Thomas Orby Hunter*, discharged from Payment of the annual Sum of 100 *l.* to the Company.



and from all  
Covenants in  
the Articles of  
10 July 1697.

and declared by the Authority aforesaid, That the Heirs and Assigns of the said Sir *Charles Orby*, and *Thomas Orby Hunter*, Esq; his Heirs, Executors, Administrators and Assigns, are hereby fully and absolutely freed and discharged of and from the Payment of the said yearly Sum of one hundred Pounds to the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Company of Conservators aforesaid, and their Successors or Assigns, and of and from all Ar-rears thereof; and the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty, and their Successors, and the Heirs and Assigns of the said Sir *Charles Orby* deceased, and the said *Thomas Orby Hunter*, his Heirs, Executors, Administrators and Assigns, are hereby fully and absolutely freed and discharged of and from all and every the Covenants, Clauses, Articles, Conditions and Agreements, contained in the said Articles of the tenth Day of *July* one thousand six hundred and ninety-seven before-mentioned.

And in order to raise Money sufficient to satisfy and discharge the said Sum of one thousand eight hundred Pounds, so as aforesaid ascertained and declared to be the Proportion of the said North Level, of and in the Debts of the said Corporation, contracted before the said Year one thousand seven hundred

and twenty-eight; it is hereby further enacted and declared, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the Proprietors of taxable Lands within the said North Level, to purchase off so much of the Taxes chargeable on their respective Lands, by virtue of or under the said recited Acts of Parliament of the fifteenth and twentieth

Proprietors of taxable Lands within the North Level, may purchase off so much of the Taxes chargeable thereon, by Act 15 & 20 Car. II.

twentieth Years of the Reign of his said late Majesty King *Charles* the Second, at and after the Rate of thirty Years Purchase, computing and settling the said Taxes on the said eighty-three thousand Acres at a Tax and a Quarter; and on the said twelve thousand Acres in Proportion thereto, according to the said Act of the twentieth of King *Charles* the Second, as shall be sufficient to raise the said Sum of one thousand eight hundred Pounds; and in order thereto, it shall and may be lawful to and for the said several Proprietors of taxable Lands, at any Time on or before the twenty-fourth Day of *June* which shall be in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and fifty-four, to subscribe in a Book to be kept by the Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty, or their Register, for that Purpose, at their Office in the *Inner Temple, London*, for the Purchase of the Taxes of so much of their respective Lands as they shall be respectively willing and desirous to purchase off, at and after the Rate aforesaid; and in Case the Purchase of more of the said Taxes shall be so subscribed for, on or before the said twenty-fourth Day of *June* one thousand seven hundred and fifty-four, than shall be sufficient to raise the said Sum of one thousand eight hundred Pounds; then, and in such Case, the Purchase thereof shall be allotted and settled by the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty amongst the said Subscribers, in equal Average and Proportion to the Taxes payable by them respectively; and upon Payment of the several Sums of Money so to be subscribed or allotted for the Purchase of the Taxes

as will raise the Sum of 1800 *l.* and enter Subscriptions for the same, before 24 June 1754.

Payment thereof to be made by 29 Sep. 1754; and to be applied in discharging the said Debt.

Company to  
execute Re-  
leases of the  
Taxes to the  
Purchasers.

Taxes aforesaid, on or before twenty-ninth Day of *September* which shall be in the said Year one thousand seven hundred and fifty-four, to the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty, or their Treasurer, to be by them applied for and towards Payment of the Debts contracted by the said Corporation before the said Year one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight, the said several Purchasers, their Heirs, Executors, Administrators and Assigns, and their respective Lands and Tenements, shall be from thenceforth fully and absolutely freed, exonerated and discharged of and from the Taxes by them so purchased as aforesaid, and of and from all other Rates and Taxes whatsoever chargeable on the Lands by them so exonerated as aforesaid, by virtue of or under the said several Acts of Parliament of the fifteenth and twentieth Years of King *Charles* the Second, or either of them; and it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty, and they are hereby required, upon such Payment as aforesaid, at the Costs of such Purchasers, to execute under their common Seal, good and sufficient Releases and Discharges to the said several Purchasers, their respective Heirs, Executors, Administrators and Assigns, of and from the Taxes so by them respectively purchased as aforesaid, particularly describing and bounding therein the Lands which shall be thereby released and exonerated from Taxes in Pursuance of such Purchases.

And

And it is hereby further enacted and declared, That the Taxes chargeable by virtue of and under the said Acts of the fifteenth and twentieth Years of King *Charles* the Second, or either of them, upon the Residue of the taxable Lands within the said North Level, which shall not be so exonerated as aforesaid, shall be always hereafter, and hereby are, fixed and settled upon so much thereof as shall be Part of the said eighty-three thousand Acres, at a Tax and a Quarter, and on so much thereof as shall be Part of the said twelve thousand Acres, in Proportion thereto, according to the said Act of the twentieth of King *Charles* the Second; and shall not be lessened or increased under any Pretence whatsoever; and that all the Money which shall arise, or be produced by the said Taxes within the said North Level, and all other the Rents and Revenues arising and payable to the said Corporation by, from or out of the said North Level, or any Part thereof, shall from henceforth be applied and disposed of by the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty, and their Successors, in and about the several Banks and Works of the said Level herein after-mentioned; that is to say, In the first Place to raise, make good and keep in Repair, the North Bank of *Moreton's* Leame, the East Bank of Cordike from *Moreton's* Leame to the Folly Bank, the Folly Banks from Cordike to the River *Welland*, the Bank reaching from the Folly Bank to *Peakirk* Town, and the South Bank of the River *Welland* to West Dam at the End of *Crowland* Town, until the said Banks shall be made of such

The Taxes chargeable by Acts 15 & 20 Car. II. to be continued on the Residue of the Lands not exonerated, and to be applied in the Works of the Level herein mentioned and described.



such a Height and Strength as the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty, or their Successors, shall judge sufficient to defend the said North Level and South *Holland* from and against the Land Floods; and from and after the Banks aforesaid shall be put into such a State of Security as aforesaid, then the said Taxes, Rents and Revenues shall be applied for and towards repairing and strengthening the Banks of *Shire* Drain, scouring out the Outfall, and repairing *Guntborpe* Sluice; and also for and towards repairing and strengthening the South Bank of the River Old South Eau from West Dam aforesaid to Clows Cross, and also the West Bank of the said River Old South Eau from Clows Cross to Guyhirn, and the Banks of the Counter-Drain from Guyhirn to the East End of the Severals in Stand Ground; and that the said Taxes, Rents and Revenues shall not be applied or disposed of, to or for any other Purpose or Purposes whatsoever.

**And** it is hereby further enacted and declared, That the said North Level, and all and singular the Lands, Tenements, Rents, Taxes and Revenues thereof, shall be, and hereby is and are fully and absolutely freed, exonerated and discharged of and from the Residue of the said Debt of fourteen thousand three hundred Pounds, which shall remain after Payment of the said Sum of one thousand eight hundred Pounds to the said Corporation; and also of and from the said Debt of fifteen thousand nine hundred and forty Pounds, so contracted by the said Corporation since the said

The Lands of  
the North Level  
discharged  
from Payment  
of the Residue  
of the Debt of  
14300 *l*.

and from the  
Debt of  
15940 *l*.

Year

Year one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight, for or on account of the said Middle and South Levels, as aforesaid, and of and from every Part and Parcel of the said Debts respectively, and all Interest payable for or in respect thereof; and all other Debts now owing. and also of and from the Payment of all other Debts and Sums of Money whatsoever now due and owing by or from the said Corporation.

And it is hereby further enacted and declared, That the said North Level, or the Lands, Tenements, Rents, Revenues and Taxes thereof, or any Part thereof, shall not be subject or liable to the Payment of any Debt, or Sum or Sums of Money whatsoever, which shall at any Time hereafter be contracted, taken up, or borrowed, by the said Corporation, for or on account of the said Middle and South Levels, or either of them, or the doing and performing any Work or Works for the better draining and preserving the same Levels, or either of them; and also that the said Middle and South Levels, or either of them, or the Lands, Tenements, Rents, Revenues and Taxes of them, or either of them, shall not be subject or liable to the Payment of any Debt, Sum or Sums of Money whatsoever, which shall at any Time hereafter be contracted, taken up or borrowed by the said Corporation, for or on account of the said North Level, or any Work or Works for the better draining and preserving thereof, or any Part thereof.

The North Level not liable to Debts, on account of the Middle and South Levels.

nor are they to be subject to Debts on account of the North Level.

And

Members for  
Lands in the  
North Level  
not to vote  
concerning  
borrowing  
Money, for  
the Middle  
and South Le-  
vels.

**And** it is hereby further enacted by the Au-  
thority aforesaid, That no Person or Persons that  
shall be qualified to sit and vote as a Mem-  
ber of the said Corporation, for or in respect  
of Lands or Grounds in the said North Level  
only, shall, at any Time hereafter, have any  
Vote, Power or Authority concerning the bor-  
rowing any Money for the Service of the  
Middle and South Levels, or either of them,  
or which the Taxes, Rents and Revenues of  
the said Middle and South Levels, or either of  
them only, shall be subject and liable to the  
Payment of.

The Lands to  
be drained to  
be divided in-  
to Districts.

**And** for the better effecting the Purposes of  
this present Act, it is hereby further enacted  
and declared by the Authority aforesaid, That  
the said several Lands and Grounds intended to  
be drained under the Powers and Authority of  
this present Act, shall be and hereby are di-  
vided into five Districts or Divisions in manner  
herein after-mentioned, and that the Waters  
of the said several Districts or Divisions shall  
run and be conveyed to Sea, in, by and  
through the several Rivers and Drains herein  
after-mentioned; that is to say, the first of the  
said Districts or Divisions shall contain all that  
Part of the North Level which is bounded as  
follows; On the North by the River *Welland*  
from the Folly Bank to *Crowland* Bridge, and  
from thence to the Place where the River  
Catwater now falls into the River Old South  
Eau, by the South-west Bank of the said Ri-  
ver Old South Eau, otherwise the ancient  
Branch of the *Nene*, including the said South-  
West Bank; on the East, by the West Bank

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of the River Catwater from the said Place where the said River falls into the Old South Eau aforesaid, to the North Side of *Thorney* Causeway, including the said Bank; on the South, by the Road leading from *Thorney* Causeway aforesaid to Cordike, at the West End of *Eye* Town; and on the West, from that Part of Cordike, which is at the West End of *Eye* Town aforesaid to the River *Welland*, by the East Bank of Cordike and the Folly Bank; and that the Waters of the said District or Division shall run and be conveyed to Sea into any Part of the said River Old South Eau, otherwise the said antient Branch of the River *Nene*, between *Crowland* Town End and the said Place where Catwater now falls into the said River Old South Eau, and in, by and through that Part of Catwater which lies between Pepper Lake and the said River Old South Eau, and all or any of the interior Drains within the said District, and down that Part of the said River Old South Eau which lies within the North Level on the North Side thereof to Clows Cross, and from thence into, by and through Shire Drain to Sea; with full Liberty and Power of opening and shutting the Gates or Doors which stand at the Place where the said River Catwater falls into the Old South Eau, as Occasion shall require: The second District or Division shall contain all that Part of the North Level which is bounded as follows; that is to say, On the North, in part by the said Road leading from Cordike aforesaid, through *Eye* Town, to *Thorney* Causeway, and in part by the South Bank

the Drains thro' which the Waters are to be conveyed into the Sea.

The Second District.



The Drains by which the Waters are to be conveyed.

The third District.

The Drains for conveying the Waters thereof.

Bank of *Thorney* Dike; on the East, in part (from *Thorney* Causeway aforesaid to *Thorney* Cross, where Catwater turns off Westward towards *Story's* Bar) by the West Bank of Catwater, and in part from the South Bank of *Thorney* Dike aforesaid to the Counter Drain by the West Bank of Knarlake; on the West, by Cordike, from the West End of *Eye* Town aforesaid to *Moreton's* Leame; and on the South, by the Counter Drain aforesaid, from the upper Part of the Severals in Strand Ground to the West Bank of Knarlake aforesaid, including all the said Banks; and that the Waters of the said last-mentioned District or Division shall run and be conveyed to Sea, in, by and through all or any of the interior Drains within the said District, into the Counter-Drain aforesaid; and in, by and through the Counter-Drain aforesaid to Guyhirn; and from thence down the Old South Eau to Clows Cross; and from thence in, by and through Shire Drain to Sea: The third District or Division shall contain the Lordship of *Thorney*, which is bounded on the West by Catwater from *Thorney* Cross aforesaid to the Old South Eau; on the North, by the South Bank of the Old South Eau, from the said Place where Catwater now falls into the said River Old South Eau aforesaid, to Gold Dike, including the said Bank; on the East, in part by Gold Dike and in part by Knarlake; and on the South by *Thorney* Dike, including the said River and Drain of Catwater and *Thorney* Dike; and that the Waters of the said last-mentioned District or Division shall run or be conveyed into

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Gold Dike, and from Gold Dike to Clows Cross by the New South Eau to *Throckenbolt*; and from thence on the South Side of *Throckenbolt* to Clows Cross, or by the Drain that runs from Gold Dike to Clows Cross, between *Sutton Common* and *Inkersen Fen*, and by *Knarlake* into the Counter-Drain aforesaid, and in, by and through *Shire Drain* to Sea, in such Manner as shall be found most convenient by the said *John Duke of Bedford*, the sole Owner of the said District, his Heirs and Assigns: The fourth District or Division shall contain all that Part of the said North Level, which is bounded on the West by the East Bank of Gold Dike and the East Bank of *Knarlake*; on the North, by the South Bank of that Part of the Old South Eau which runs from Gold Dike to Clows Cross; on the East, by the West Bank of that Part of the Old South Eau which runs from *Guyhirn* to Clows Cross; and on the South, by the North Bank of the Counter Drain aforesaid, including all the said Banks. And that the Waters thereof shall run or be conveyed to Sea into, by and through *Shire Drain*, by the Counter-Drain aforesaid, and that Part of the Old South Eau which runs from *Guyhirn* to Clows Cross; and the fifth District or Division shall contain the Lands before-mentioned, called *Portsand*, otherwise *Great Portsand*, bounded on the East by *Holbeach* and *Whapload* Lands and the Willow Row Bank, from *Dowdsdale* to the River *Asenike*; on the North, by the said River *Asenike* and the River *Welland*, from the Willow Row Bank to *Whitehouse*, otherwise *Eppinbolt* Corner;

The fourth District.

The Drains for carrying off the Waters thereof.

The Fifth District.

The Drains  
for carrying  
off the Waters  
thereof.

The Waters  
to be convey-  
ed through the  
respective  
Drains, with-  
out Obstructi-  
on from the  
Conservators  
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Level.

Corner; on the West, by the said River *Wel-*  
*land*, and by the North-east Bank of the said  
River Old South Eau, otherwise antient Branch  
of the *Nene*, from *Eppinholt* Corner aforesaid to  
*Turketullus's* Cross, near the Place where Cat-  
water now falls into the Old South Eau; and  
on the South by the North Bank of the said  
River Old South Eau, from *Turketullus's* Cross  
to *Dowdsdale*, including the said North-east  
Bank and North Bank; and that the Waters  
of the said last-mentioned District or Division  
shall run and be conveyed through *Dowdsdale*  
Bank, being the before-mentioned North-east  
Bank and North Bank, into any Part or Parts  
of the said antient Branch of the *Nene*, other-  
wise Old South Eau, and of the said River  
Old South Eau between *Crowland* Town End  
and *Dowdsdale*, and from thence by the said  
River Old South Eau into, by and through  
Shire Drain aforesaid to Sea.

And it is hereby further enacted and de-  
clared by the Authority aforesaid, That the  
Waters of the said several Districts or Divi-  
sions, shall run or be conveyed to Sea in, by and  
through the several Rivers or Drains herein  
before mentioned and appointed, to the said  
several Districts respectively for that Purpose  
without any Lett, Hindrance, Obstruction or  
Controul of, from or by the said Governor  
Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Company of  
Conservators of the Great Level of the Fens  
or their Successors, in any Manner or under  
any Right whatsoever, or of, from or by the  
Commissioners for putting this Act into Exe-  
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cution, or any of them, under any Pretence whatsoever, otherwise than as herein after is mentioned.

And it is hereby further enacted by the Authority afore said, That the several Persons herein after named shall be, and hereby are, constituted and appointed Commissioners for the executing and effecting the Powers, Authorities and Purposes of this present Act, until the last Monday in the Month of June which shall be in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and fifty-five; that is to say, for the said first District or Division, The Right Honourable *Brownlow* Earl of *Exeter*, The Right Honourable *Henry* Earl of *Lincoln*, *Timothy Brecknock*, *Thomas Moore*, Esquires; *Samuel Sharp*, *William Landen*, *John Walton*, *William Walton* senior, *Thomas Robert Gates*, *Charlton Wyldbore*, Gentlemen; for the said second District or Division, The Right Honourable *George William* Earl of *Coventry*, *Richard Tryce*, *John Wildbore*, Esquires; *Daniel Bailey* senior, Gentleman, *Robert Blake*, Esq; *George Johnson*, *Thomas Moore* junior, *William Aveling* of *Eldernel*, Gentlemen; for the said third District or Division, His Grace the most Noble *John Duke* of *Bedford*, *Samuel Henry Pont*, *Benjamin Woodward*, *Matthew Wyldbore*, *George Waddington*, *Robert Butcher*, Esquires; *Thomas Neale* Clerk, M. A. *Berry Dodson*, *William Sisson* senior, *William Preston*, *Langley Edwards*, *Thomas Bullock*, *Richard Bayley*, *James Brown*, *Abraham Baley*, *John Bains*, *John Brittain*, *Robert Chapman*, *John Congreve*, *John Delanoy*, *John Egar*, *Thomas Fowler*,

Commissioners  
for the several  
Districts.



*Fowler, Thomas Hawkins, William Little, John Milfield, William Morris, Benjamin Ris, Joseph Rolls, Job Rowning, Samuel Sharpe of Thorney, John Sharpe, Thomas Speechley, George Searle, John Wing, Gentlemen; for the said fourth District or Division, The Reverend George Reynolds LL.D. the Reverend Charles Reynolds D.D. Armstead Parker, Spelman Swaine, John Sly, Esquires; Henry Burrough Clerk, M. A. James Ris Clerk, John Sumpter Esq; John Dickenson Clerk, M. A. Abraham Gerbow, Robert Wensley, Thomas Awdley, Francis Hardy; and for the said fifth District or Division, Thomas Orby Hunter Esquire, James Benson Clerk, John Crawford Esq; Thomas Brecknock, Charles Crawford, John Kelk, William Peers, John De Key, James Ufill, Thomas Kingston, William Cowling, Isaac Whitfeld, James Goglar, Thomas Webster, and Hugh Worrell.*

Commis-  
sioners to have  
a yearly gene-  
ral Meeting,  
to make a Rate  
for draining  
on all Lands  
not herein ex-  
cepted;

**And** for the effectual raising and levying Money for the general draining and preserving the Lands and Grounds comprized in all the said five several Districts or Divisions, and answering the Purposes of this present Act; it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Commissioners hereby nominated and appointed, and such other Commissioners as shall hereafter succeed them, or be nominated or appointed, elected or chosen, in their or any of their Steads, by virtue of the Powers and Authority hereby given for that Purpose, or any forty or more of them, shall meet yearly at the House called *The Duke's Head Inn* in *Thorney*, in the said Isle of *El*

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and County of *Cambridge*, so long as the same shall continue an Inn or Publick House, or otherwise at such other House in the Town of *Thorney* aforesaid, as the Commissioners for the Time being, or the major Part of them who shall be present at any general Meeting, shall think proper and appoint, on the first *Monday* which shall happen in the Month of *July*, at ten of the Clock in the Forenoon in every Year; the first of the said Meetings to be had and held on *Monday* the first Day of *July* which will be in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and fifty-four; and then and there, from Time to Time, shall assess, rate, tax and charge all and every the respective Owner or Owners, Occupier or Occupiers of all and singular the Lands and Grounds situate and being within the said several Districts or Divisions herein before-mentioned and described, or any of them, except *Great Burrough Fen Common*, otherwise *Peterborough Great Fen Common*; the Common now commonly called *The four hundred Acre Common* in *Alderlands*; *Little Borough Fen Common*, otherwise *Peterborough Little Fen Common*, otherwise *Flagg Fen Common*, and that Part of *Sutton Common* which lies South of *Old South Eau*; and also except all the Lands called *Hurt's Grounds*, in the Parish of *Stand Ground*; and also all the Lands of *Oxney* and *Tanbolt Farms*, *Chapel Close*, *Borough-hill Closes*, *Padbam's Peakirk* long Meadows, *Peakirk* little Meadows, and the Closes adjoining thereto; *Newark-Edgerly*, and the Closes adjoining thereunto towards the West and North; *Billingwood*,

and the Closes adjoining thereto, in the Parish of *Paston*; the Lands called *The Inbams*, lying South of the *Folly Bank*, and the Closes at the South End of the *Inbams*, called *Puttock Closes*; and also except all the Highlands in *Eyebury* and *Newark*; and all the Highlands in the Parishes of *Peterborough*, *Werrington*, *Glington*, *Peakirk Eye*, *Stand Ground* and *Whittlesey*, or any of them) by and with equal and proportionable yearly Rates, Taxes or Sums of Money, at the Discretion of the said Commissioners, or the major Part of them that shall be present at any such yearly general

the same for  
the first four  
Years to be at  
1 s. per Acre,

after not to  
exceed 6 d.  
per Acre in  
any one Year;

the same to be  
paid Half-  
yearly.

Meeting; so that the said Rates or Taxes for the first four Years, to be computed from the Feast of the Nativity of St. *John the Baptist* which shall be in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and fifty-four, be after the yearly Rate of one Shilling for every Acre of the Lands and Grounds comprized within all the said several Districts or Divisions (except as is before excepted); and so that after the Expiration of the said Term of four Years the said Rates or Taxes do not exceed, in any one Year, six Pence for every Acre of the Lands and Grounds comprized within all the said several Districts or Divisions (except as is before excepted); and so that no Part of the said Lands and Grounds be, at any Time, charged by virtue of this Act, with any greater or lesser Rate or Tax than the rest of the said Lands are or shall be charged with; which said Rates, Taxes and Sums of Money, so to be taxed and assessed as aforesaid, shall be paid by the respective Owners or Occupiers of the said

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Lands or Grounds, at the Feast Days of the Nativity of *St. John the Baptist* and the Birth of our Lord *Christ*, in every Year, by equal Half-yearly Payments, to such Person or Persons, as the said Commissioners, or the major Part of them, who shall be present at any general Meeting, shall, from Time to Time, order, direct or appoint the same; the first Payment thereof to be made at the Feast Day of the Birth of our Lord *Christ* which will be in the said Year one thousand seven hundred and fifty-four; and which said Rates or Taxes shall be subject to and chargeable with such Sum or Sums of Money as shall be advanced, borrowed, raised and received on the Credit thereof, in Manner herein after-mentioned.

**Provided** always, and it is hereby enacted and declared by the Authority aforesaid, That the Quantities of the Lands and Grounds so to be rated and taxed as aforesaid shall, on or before *Monday* the second Day of *September* one thousand seven hundred and fifty-four, be given in to the Surveyor, Treasurer or Clerk, to be appointed by the said Commissioners, and ascertained by the Oath of the Owners, Proprietors or Occupiers thereof, or solemn Affirmation of such of them as are or shall be of the People called *Quakers*, or other sufficient Witness or Witnesses to be made before the said Commissioners, or any two or more of them; (which Oath or Affirmation the said Commissioners, or any two or more of them, are hereby impowered to administer); and if

The Quantities of the Lands rateable by the Proprietors, to be given in upon Oath by 29th Sept. 1754.



and on their  
Neglect or  
Refusal to do  
so, the Lands  
to be surveyed  
and charged  
according  
thereto.

and the said  
Persons to pay  
the Charges of  
the Survey.

The Monies  
raised to be ap-  
plied by the  
Commis-  
sioners in Man-  
ner herein di-  
rected.

any of the said Owners, Proprietors or Occu-  
piers shall neglect or refuse to give in to such  
Surveyor, Treasurer or Clerk a particular Ac-  
count of the Number of Acres contained in  
their several Lands and Grounds, and make  
Oath or Affirmation of the Truth thereof by  
the Time aforesaid, it shall and may be law-  
ful to and for the said Commissioners, or the  
major Part of them, who shall be present at  
any general Meeting, to order a Survey to be  
made by such Person or Persons as they shall  
think proper, of the Lands and Grounds of  
the several Persons who shall so neglect or re-  
fuse to give in such Account, and make such  
Oath or Affirmation of the Truth thereof as  
aforesaid; and any Survey which shall be so  
made, shall be a sufficient Warrant and Autho-  
rity to the said Commissioners to ascertain and  
determine the Quantities of the Lands and  
Grounds of the Persons so neglecting or refu-  
sing to give in such Account; and the Charge  
of such Survey shall be paid by the Person or  
Persons so neglecting or refusing.

And it is hereby further enacted and de-  
clared by the Authority aforesaid, That the  
Taxes and Sums of Money so to be assessed,  
rated, raised and received as aforesaid, and also  
all Sums of Money to be borrowed and re-  
ceived on the Credit thereof, in manner here-  
in after-mentioned, shall, from Time to Time,  
be applied and disposed of by the Commis-  
sioners for putting this Act into Execution, or  
the major Part of them, who shall be present  
at any general Meeting, in Manner following;

that

that is to say, in the first Place, in the paying and defraying the Charges of this Act; and in the next Place, for and towards the general Works of draining and preserving all the said Districts or Divisions herein after-mentioned; that is to say, in cleansing out, widening and deepning the said antient Branch of the River *Nene*, otherwise *Old South Eau*, and the said River *Old South Eau*, from *Crowland Town* to *Clows Crosse*; the said River *Old South Eau*, from *Clows Crosse* to *Guybirk*; the River *Catwater*, from about twenty Feet above *Thorney Crosse* to *Story's Bar*; and in making, cleansing out, widening and deepening a Dike or Drain from *Story's Bar* to or near *North Eau Gravel*, and also the *Counter Drain* from the East End of the Severals in *Stand Ground* to *Guybirk* and *Gold Dike* and *Knarlake*; and the *New South Eau* from *Gold Dike* to *Throckenbolt*, or the said Drain between *Sutton Common* and *Inkersen Fen* from *Gold Dike* to *Throckenbolt*; (which the said *John Duke of Bedford*, his Heirs or Assigns, shall elect or choose to be cleansed, widened, and deepened) and the said Drain on the South Side of *Throckenbolt* from such of the said Drains which shall be so cleansed, widened and deepened, as aforesaid, to *Clows Crosse*; and also in raising, strengthening and maintaining the North-east and North Banks of the said antient Branch of the *Nene*, otherwise *Old South Eau*, and of the said River *Old South Eau*, from *Crowland Town* to *Dowdsdale*; and the South-west and South Banks of the said Rivers, from *Crowland Town* to *Clows Crosse*; and the West Bank of the *Old South Eau*,  
from

from *Clows Crofs* to *Guybirn*, in ſuch Manner, and to ſuch Height and Strength at leaſt, as ſhall be ſufficient to defend the Lands againſt a Head of Water which may ariſe four Feet above the Level of the Lands adjoining to the ſaid Rivers; and alſo in raiſing, ſtrengthening and maintaining both the Banks of *Catwater* from about twenty Feet above *Thorney Crofs* to *Story's Bar*; both the Banks of the ſaid Drain or Dike from *Story's Bar* to the *Counter-Drain*; the North Bank of the *Counter-Drain*, from the Eaſt End of the Severals in *Stand Ground* to *Guybirn*; both the Banks of *Gold Dike* and *Knarlake*; and either both the Banks of *New South Ean*, from *Gold Dike* to *Throckenholt*; or both the Banks of the Drain between *Sutton Common* and *Inkerſon Fen* from *Gold Dike* to *Throckenholt*; at the Election of the ſaid *John Duke of Bedford*, his Heirs or Aſſigns; and both the Banks of the Drain on the South Side of *Throckenholt*, from ſuch of the ſaid Drains as ſhall be ſo elected as aforeſaid, to *Clows Crofs*, to the Height and Strength herein before directed, of and concerning the Banks of the ſaid Rivers *Nene* and *Old South Eau*; and alſo in damming up the *Old Wryde* on the Eaſt Side of *Gold Dike*; and in damming up the North End of *Gold Dike*; and alſo in making a Dam at or near the South End of *Gold Dike*, or at or near the South End of *Knarlake*; and in keeping and continuing the ſaid Drain ſo dammed up; and alſo in ſupporting, repairing and maintaining the *Pointing Doors* now ſtanding at or near the Place where *Catwater* now falls into the ſaid River

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River *Old South Eau* ; and also in scouring out *Shire Drain* from *Clows Crofs* to *Gunthorpe Sluice* ; and in heightening, strengthening and maintaining the Banks on Both Sides *Shire Drain*, in such good and substantial Manner as to be sufficient to convey the Waters running through the said several Rivers and Drains down to *Gunthorpe Sluice* ; and in erecting, working, supporting and repairing so many Engines or Mills, not exceeding eight, between *Shire Goat*, otherwise *Hill Sluice*, otherwise *Tid Goat Sluice*, and *Gunthorpe Sluice*, for throwing out and discharging the Waters coming down *Shire Drain* to Sea, as the said Commissioners, or the major Part of them, who shall be present at any such yearly General Meeting as aforesaid, shall, from Time to Time, in their Discretion think proper and order to be erected, supported and worked ; and in widening, altering, rebuilding, repairing and amending *Gunthorpe Sluice*, *Shire Goat* and *Hill Sluice*, otherwise *Tid Goat Sluice* aforesaid, and the several Bridges, Clows and Sluices in and over *Shire Drain*, *Old South Eau*, *Counter Drain*, *New South Eau*, the said Drain between *Sutton Common* and *Inkerson Fen*, and the said antient Branch of the *Nene*, and in scouring out the Reservoir and Sands at and near the Outfall from *Shire Drain* to Sea, from Time to Time, as Occasion shall require, and in making and maintaining such other convenient Bridges over *Catwater* and the *Counter Drain*, as the said Commissioners, or the major Part of them, who shall be present at any such yearly General Meeting as aforesaid, in their



their Discretion shall think proper; and in discharging the Wages and Salaries of Officers, and other necessary Expences.

No more than 40 s. allowed for the Charges of any one Meeting of the Commissioners.

The Rivers and Banks, &c. which are to be first repaired and cleansed.

**Provided** always, and it is hereby enacted and declared, That no further or greater Sum of Money than the Sum of forty Shillings shall ever be allowed or paid out of the Money to be raised under the Authorities of this Act, for the Charges or Expences of any one Meeting of the said Commissioners.

**Provided** also, and it is hereby enacted and declared, That a sufficient Part of the said Rates and Taxes, and the Money to be borrowed on the Credit of this Act, shall, in the first Place, after paying and defraying the Charges of this Act, be applied and disposed of in cleansing out and deepening the said River *Old South Eau*, from *Clows Cross* to *Guybirn*, and in making, raising and strengthening the West Bank thereof, to the Height and Strength herein before directed, and in damming up the *Old Wryde* at the Place aforesaid; and in making, raising and strengthening the East Bank of *Gold Dike*, both Banks of *Knarlake*, and in cleansing, widening and deepening *Catwater* from about twenty Feet above *Thorney Cross* to *Story's Bar*, the Drain from *Story's Bar* to or near *North Eau Gravel*, and the Counter-Drain from the East End of the Severals in *Stand Ground* to *Guybirn*; and in making, raising and strengthening the North Bank of the *Counter Drain* to the Height and Strength herein before-mentioned; and in scouring out the Reservoir and Sands at or near the Outfall from *Shire Drain* to Sea, once in every

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every Year, between *Michalmas* and *Christmas*; and in heightening, strengthening and maintaining the Banks on both Sides *Shire Drain*, in such good and substantial Manner as to be sufficient to convey the Waters running through the said several Rivers and Drains down to *Guntborpe Sluice*; and afterwards in or about such of the other Works herein before-mentioned, as the said Commissioners for the Time being, or the major Part of them, who shall be present at any such General Meeting, shall, in their Discretion, think most necessary to be done for answering the Purposes of this Act.

**Provided** also, and it is hereby further enacted and declared, That the Dam herein before directed to be made in the said Drain, called *Old Wryde*, shall not be hereafter removed or taken away; but that the said Drain called *Old Wryde*, shall always hereafter continue and be dammed up at the Place aforesaid; and that the said other Dams, herein before directed to be made, shall not, after so made, be removed or taken away.

The Dam to be made in the Old Wryde Drain, not to be afterwards removed, &c.

**Provided** also, and it is hereby further enacted and declared, That the *Counter-Drain* from the West End of the Severals in *Stand Ground*, to the East End of the said Severals, shall be cleansed and scoured out, from Time to Time, at the sole Expence of and by the Proprietor or Proprietors of the said Severals, for the Time being.

The Counter-Drain from the Severals to be cleansed at the Proprietors Charge.

**Provided** also, and it is hereby enacted and declared, That if it shall be found necessary to widen, alter or take down a certain Bridge

If Dunton Hall Bridge be taken down, or altered, the Commissioners to build another.

Bridge over *Shire Drain* aforesaid, called *Dunton Hall Bridge*, heretofore built by *Sigismund Trafford, Esq;* in order to give the Waters a more free and open Passage in and through the said Drain, the said Commissioners and their Successors shall, by and out of the Monies hereby directed to be raised for the said general Works of Draining, build another Bridge, in case the same shall be taken down at the Place aforesaid, of the same Sort of Materials, and in as handsome a Manner as the present Bridge; and, from Time to Time, support and maintain a sufficient Bridge at the Place aforesaid for Horses, Cattle, Carriages and Passengers.

Besides the Rate for general Works of Draining, the Commissioners of the fourth District may make another Rate on the Lands therein.

And it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That over and above the said Rates and Taxes herein before authorized and directed to be raised, levied and received for the general Works of Draining herein before directed, it shall and may be lawful to and for the Commissioners for the Time being of the said fourth District or Division, or the major Part of them, who shall be present at such yearly General Meeting as aforesaid, then and there from Time to Time to assess, rate, tax and charge all and every the Owner and Owners, Occupier and Occupiers of all and singular the Lands and Grounds situate and being within the said fourth District or Division, by and with a further equal and proportionable yearly Rate, Tax or Sum of Money, at the Discretion of the Commissioners for the Time being of the said last-mentioned District or Division,

Division, or the major Part of them that shall be present at any such Meeting; so that such further or additional Tax or Sum of Money do not exceed in any one Year, for the two first Years, to be computed from the twenty-fourth Day of *June* one thousand seven hundred and fifty-four, two Shillings for every Acre of the Land or Ground within the said last-mentioned District (except as before excepted) and so that, after the Expiration of the said Term of two Years, such further or additional Tax or Sum of Money do not exceed, in any one Year, one Shilling for every Acre of Land or Ground within the said last-mentioned District or Division, except as aforesaid: And also, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the said respective Commissioners for the Time being of the said first and second Districts or Divisions, or the major Part of them respectively, who shall be present at any such yearly General Meeting as aforesaid, then and there, from Time to Time, severally and respectively to assess, rate, tax and charge all and every the Owner and Owners, Occupier and Occupiers of all and singular the Lands and Grounds situate and being within their several and respective Districts or Divisions (except as herein before is mentioned to be excepted) by and with a further equal and proportionable yearly Rate, Tax or Sum of Money, at the Discretion of the several and respective Commissioners for the Time being of and for the said last-mentioned Districts or Divisions, or the major Part of them that shall be present at any such yearly

not exceeding  
2s. per Acre  
for the first  
two Years,

and 1s. per  
Acre after.

The Commis-  
sioners of the  
first and second  
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also make a  
like Rate,



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yearly General Meeting as aforesaid; so that such further or additional Tax, or Sum of Money, do not exceed in any one Year one Shilling for every Acre of Land or Ground within the said last mentioned two Districts or Divisions respectively (except as before excepted); which said additional Rates or Taxes, so to be severally and respectively taxed or assessed by the several and respective Commissioners of the said three last-mentioned Districts or Divisions respectively as aforesaid, shall be paid by the Owners or Occupiers of the Lands or Grounds comprized in the said three Districts or Divisions respectively, to such Person or Persons, at such Time or Times, and in such Manner and Proportion as the respective Commissioners for the Time being of the said three Districts or Divisions respectively, or the major Part of them that shall be present at any such Meeting as aforesaid, shall, from Time to Time, severally and respectively order, direct or appoint the same; and shall be applied and disposed of at the Discretion of the several Commissioners for each of the said three Districts respectively, or the major Part of them for the Time being, present at their respective Meetings, in or about the particular Works, Banks, Drains, Mills, Engines and other Matters and Things necessary for draining each of the said three Districts or Divisions respectively; and to or for no other Use or Purpose whatsoever.

And

And it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Commissioners in general, or the major Part of them for the Time being, who shall be present at the said yearly or any other General Meeting, to make and widen the said Drain or Dike from *Story's Bar* to or near *North Eau Gravel*, and, from Time to Time, to cleanse, widen, raise, strengthen, build, erect and support, or cause to be cleansed, widened, raised, strengthened, built, erected and supported, all such Rivers, Drains, Outlets, Dams, Banks, Bridges, Mills, Engines and other Matters and Things herein before-mentioned, and particularly directed to be done by them, for draining the said Lands and Grounds, except as before excepted; and also to take and use such Earth and Ground near or adjoining to the said Banks, as shall be necessary for the making, raising, strengthening and maintaining thereof, as the said Commissioners, or the major Part of them, who shall be present at any such yearly or other General Meeting, shall think necessary and proper; paying such reasonable Satisfaction to the Person or Persons who have a Right to the Soil through or upon which any such River, Drain, Outlet, Dam, Bank, Mill or Engine shall be made or erected, and for such Earth and Ground as shall be so taken as aforesaid, for the Damages, he, she or they shall thereby sustain, as shall be agreed upon between the said Commissioners, or the major Part of them, who shall be present at any such General Meeting, and the Person or Persons having

The Commissioners, at a General Meeting, may order the Drain from *Story's Bar* to *North Eau Gravel*, to be cleansed, &c.

and to make use of Earth to strengthen the Banks, making Satisfaction to the Proprietors of the Soil.

The Commis-  
sioner of the  
three last Di-  
stricts may or-  
der the Banks,  
Drains and  
other Works,  
in their Di-  
stricts, to be  
repaired, &c.

such Right as aforesaid; and also, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the respective Commissioners of the said three last-mentioned Districts or Divisions, or the major Part of them for the Time being, who shall be present at their respective Meetings, from Time to Time, to cleanse, widen, make, cut, build, erect, and support, or cause to be cleansed, widened, made, cut, built, erected and supported, all such Banks, Bridges, Cuts, Drains, Dams, Outlets, Mills, Engines and other Matters and Things within their said several and respective Districts or Divisions, for draining their respective Lands and Grounds, (except as before excepted) and conveying the Waters thereof into the several Rivers or Drains herein before particularly allotted and appointed for conveying the Waters of the said three Districts respectively to Sea, as the said Commissioners respectively, or the major Part of them present at their respective Meetings, for the Time being, shall think necessary or proper, paying such reasonable Satisfaction to the Person or Persons who have a Right to the Soil through or upon which any such Cut, Drain, Dam, Bank or Outlet shall be made, or whereupon any such Engines or Mills shall be erected, for the Damages he, she or they shall thereby sustain, as shall be agreed upon between the said Commissioners respectively, or the major Part of them present for the Time being, and the Person or Persons having such Right as aforesaid; and if the said Commissioners in general, or the respective Commissioners for the three last-mentioned Districts, or

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the major Part of them present at their respective Meetings, for the Time being, and such Person or Persons having Right as aforesaid, cannot agree concerning the amount of such Damages, then the same shall be assessed and adjudged by the Justices of the Peace, or the major Part of them, at their next or any other general Quarter-Sessions of the Peace, to be holden for the Isle of *Ely*, or County where such Damage shall be done, who are hereby authorized, impowered and required to examine into, hear and determine the same; and the Determination which shall be so made by the said Justices in their Quarter-Sessions as aforesaid, shall be final and conclusive to all Parties.

**Provided** always, and be it hereby further enacted and declared by the Authority aforesaid, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to give the Commissioners for putting this Act into Execution, or any of them, any Right, Power or Authority to exclude the herein before excepted Farms, Lands and Commons, or any of them, by any Dams or other Works to be made, from the Use of the several and respective publick Drains hereafter to be made use of for the general Draining of the first, second and fourth Districts respectively.

**And** it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all Owners and Occupiers of Lands in the 1st, 2d, and 4th Districts, to keep the Division Dikes of a sufficient Depth, and 9 Feet wide, and well secured, &c.



Occupiers of Lands lying and being within the said first, second and fourth Districts or Divisions aforesaid, shall, from Time to Time, and at all Times hereafter, keep, or cause to be kept, all the Outring or Division Dikes or Drains belonging to them respectively, of a sufficient Depth, and of the Breadth or Wideness of nine Feet at the least; and shall also, from Time to Time, and at all Times hereafter, cause the same Drains or Dikes to be well and effectually roaded, scoured and cleansed from Weeds and other Rubbish and Obstructions, and cause Bridges or Tunnels to be laid therein where necessary, for the better issuing, running and conveying away the Waters therein; and if any such Owner or Occupier shall not, within fourteen Days next after Notice and Direction to or for him or her given or left in that behalf, in Writing under the Hands of two or more of the Commissioners for the District or Division where such Lands lie respectively, cause and procure such Drains or Dikes to be roaded, scoured, cleansed, deepened and widened respectively, and such Tunnels and Bridges to be laid in pursuance of and according to such Notice and Direction; the said Commissioners for the District or Division wherein such Work is directed to be done as aforesaid, or any two or more of them, shall and may, and they are hereby authorized and required to cause the same to be done in a proper and effectual Manner, and by Warrant under their Hands and Seals, or the Hands and Seals of any two or more of them, to authorize or empower their Collector or Collectors,

and on Neglect thereof, Commissioners may set Men to work thereon,

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or any other Person or Persons, to levy and raise the Charge and Expence of doing thereof, by Distress and Sale of such Goods and Chattels as shall at any Time thereafter be found on the Lands or Grounds to which such Drains or Dikes, Bridges or Tunnels, shall appertain or belong; rendering the Overplus, if any, to the Owner or Owners thereof.

And whereas the said *John Duke of Bedford* is sole and absolute Owner and Proprietor of all the Lands and Grounds comprized in the said third district or Division; now it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said *John Duke of Bedford*, his Heirs and Assigns, from Time to Time, to cleanse, widen, make, cut, build, erect and support, or cause to be cleansed, widened, made, cut, built, erected and supported, all such Banks, Cuts, Drains, Dams, Outlets, Mills, Engines and other Matters and Things, within, upon, and through the said third District or Division, for the Draining and Defending the same, and conveying the Waters thereof into the several Rivers or Drains herein before particularly allotted and appointed for conveying the Waters of the said third District to Sea, as the said *John Duke of Bedford*, his Heirs or Assigns, shall think necessary or proper.

And whereas the said *Thomas Orby Hunter* is Lord of the Manor of *Crowland*, and Owner and Proprietor of all the Lands and Grounds comprized in the said fifth District, except about four hundred Acres which are the Property

and levy the Charges by Distress and Sale.

The Duke of Bedford to cleanse and support the Drains and other Works in the third District.

Thomas Orby Hunter to cleanse and support the Drains and other Works in the fifth Division.

perty of *Beverley Butler, Esq;* and eighteen  
 Acres of Land held by the Parson of *Crook-*  
*land* for the Time being, and four Acres called  
*Place Yard*; but all which Lands so excepted  
 cannot be drained according to the Intention  
 of this Act, but through some of the Drains,  
 Banks or Works belonging to the said *Thomas*  
*Orby Hunter*; now it is hereby further enacted  
 by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and  
 may be lawful to and for the said *Thomas Orby*  
*Hunter*, his Heirs and Assigns, from Time to  
 Time, to cleanse, widen, make, cut, build,  
 erect and support, or cause to be cleansed, wi-  
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 ported, all such Banks, Cuts, Drains, Dams,  
 Outlets, Mills, Engines and other Matters and  
 Things, within, upon and through the Lands  
 and Grounds within the said last-mentioned  
 District or Division contained, for the drain-  
 ing and defending the same, and conveying  
 the Waters thereof into the several Rivers or  
 Drains herein before particularly allotted and  
 appointed for conveying the Waters of the  
 said fifth District to Sea, as the said *Thomas*  
*Orby Hunter*, his Heirs or Assigns, shall think  
 necessary or proper; except within, upon or  
 through the Lands of the said *Beverley Butler*,  
 unless the Consent of the said *Beverley Butler*,  
 or of him, her or them to whom the free-  
 hold Inheritance, Remainder or Reversion of  
 that his Estate, shall hereafter of Right come,  
 belong, or appertain, be first had or ob-  
 tained in Writing, for the doing any Work or  
 Works whatsoever thereon.

Exception.

And

And further it is hereby enacted and declared, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said *Beverley Butler*, his Heirs and Assigns, to erect and support upon the South Part of his said four hundred Acres before-mentioned, one Mill for the better draining the Waters therefrom through *Dowdsdale Bank* into the said River *Old South Eau*, if the said *Beverley Butler*, his Heirs or Assigns, shall think proper.

**Provided** always nevertheless, and it is hereby enacted and declared, That no Cut, River, Drain or Outlet, Mill, Engine or other Device, shall be made, cut, set up, used or employed for the throwing, draining or conveying away the Waters of any particular District or Division, by Virtue of or under the Authorities aforesaid, but such only as shall lead, throw or convey the Waters of each District or Division respectively into the particular Rivers or Drains herein before particularly allotted and appointed for the conveying the Waters of each of the said five Districts or Divisions respectively, into and through *Shire Drain* to Sea. And that no Mill or Mills, Engine or Engines, or other Device, shall be worked, used or employed for the throwing of the Waters from any of the said Districts or Divisions, at any Time or Times when the Waters in the said River *Old South Eau* shall be more than four Feet above the Level of the Soil in the *North Level* near the said River, opposite to *Whaploade Common*.

*Beverley Butler* may erect and support a Mill for draining the Waters from the Ground belonging to him.

The Waters of particular Districts, to be conveyed into the Rivers or Drains allotted for that Purpose.

Proviso with respect to the Height of the Waters in the River of the *Old South Eau*.



Engines erected  
contrary to  
the above Pro-  
viso, may be  
stopped.

And it is hereby further enacted and declared, That if any Mill or Mills, Engine or Engines, or other Device, shall be worked, used or employed for the throwing, draining or conveying away the Waters from any particular District or Division, contrary to the Proviso herein before last contained, it shall and may be lawful to and for the Commissioners for putting this Act into Execution, or any two or more of them, upon Proof thereof on the Oaths of two or more credible Witnesses (which Oaths any two or more of the said Commissioners are hereby impowered to administer) by Warrant under their Hands, to order and cause the going or working of all and every such Mill and Mills, Engine and Engines, or other Device, to be stopped and discontinued till the Waters in the said River *Old South Eau* shall be so abated as not to be four Feet above the Level aforesaid; and when and so soon as the Waters shall be so abated, it shall and may be lawful to and for the Commissioners for putting this Act into Execution, or any two or more of them, and they are hereby authorized and required to give Authority, under their Hands, for the working of the Mill or Mills, Engine or Engines, that shall have been so stopped as aforesaid.

Tenants to  
pay the Rates,

And, to the end the said Rates and Taxes may be more easily and effectually collected and received, be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all and every the Tenants and Occupiers of the Lands and Grounds which shall be assessed or rated by Virtue of this Act, shall be and are hereby required and made

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made liable to pay all and every such Sum and Sums of Money as shall be so assessed and rated upon the Lands and Grounds in their respective Occupations; and in case of such Payment by any Tenant or Tenants, who shall hold the Lands or Grounds by him or them occupied at a Rack-rent, such Tenant or Tenants so holding his or their Lands or Grounds at a Rack-rent, shall be at Liberty, and are hereby impowered to deduct and retain out of his or their Rent all such Rates, Taxes or Sums of Money as they shall so respectively pay as aforesaid; and the several and respective Landlords or Owners of such Lands or Grounds, are hereby required to allow such Deductions and Payments upon the Receipt of the Residue of their Rents; and all and every Tenant and Tenants so holding at a Rack-rent, and paying such Assessment or Rate, shall be acquitted and discharged from and against his, her or their Landlord or Landlords, of and from so much Money as the Assessments or Rates by him or them so paid as aforesaid shall amount unto, in as full and ample Manner, as if the same had been actually paid to his, her or their Landlord or Landlords.

and such as are at Rack-rent may deduct the same.

**Provided** always, and it is hereby enacted and declared by the Authority aforesaid, That no Lessee or Tenant of any Lands or Grounds charged with the said Taxes, who shall hold the same by virtue of, or under any Lease from any Bishop or Collegiate Church or College, or any Ecclesiastical Corporation, Sole or Aggregate, or the Trustees of the Charity of *Peterborough*, or other beneficial Lease what-

The Deduction allowed to Tenants under Bishops Leases, &c.

whatsoever, shall be intitled to deduct the Taxes chargeable by this Act out of the Rent reserved and payable by any such Lease to his, her or their Landlord or Landlords; but the said Taxes shall be charged upon, borne and paid by the Lessees or Tenants so holding such Lands or Grounds under any such Lease as aforesaid; any thing herein before contained to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

Rates may be  
levied by Di-  
stresses and Sale.

AND be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person or Persons shall refuse or neglect to pay the respective Rates, Taxes or Sums of Money, which shall be taxed, charged or assessed upon him, her or them, or the Lands or Grounds in his, her or their Possession or Occupation, by Virtue of and under the Powers and Authorities of this Act, within twenty-one Days next after the same shall become due and payable, and Demand made thereof by the Collector or Collectors appointed to receive the same, at the Lands or Grounds charged therewith, or the Dwelling-house of the Tenant or Occupier thereof, it shall and may be lawful to and for such Collector or Collectors, or for any other Person or Persons, by Virtue of any Warrant or Precept, under the Hands and Seals of any five or more of the said Commissioners (which said Warrant or Precept such Commissioners, or any five or more of them, are hereby empowered and required, from Time to Time, to make, as Occasion shall require) to enter into and upon the Lands or Grounds so rated and taxed as aforesaid, in Possession of such Person or Persons as shall so make Default in Payment

as aforesaid, and all Messuages or Tenements thereupon standing, or thereunto belonging, with the Appurtenances, and to levy the Sum or Sums of Money by him, her or them payable for such Rate or Tax, by Distress of the Goods and Chattels which shall be found on the Premises so charged with any such Rate or Tax in Arrear as aforesaid; and in case no sufficient Distress can be found on the Premises, it shall and may be lawful to and for such Collector or Collectors, or other Person or Persons, by Virtue of such Warrant or Precept as aforesaid, to levy all Arrears of the said Taxes, by Distress of the Goods and Chattels of the Person or Persons so making Default in Payment as aforesaid, which shall be found in any other Place within the Kingdom of *Great Britain*, and the Goods and Chattels so distrained to impound on the Premises, or take, lead, drive, carry away and keep for the Space of five Days, at the Costs and Charges of the Owner or Owners thereof, leaving at such Messuage or Tenement, Grounds or Premises, Notice in Writing of the Cause of such Distress; and if the Owner or Owners of the Goods and Chattels so distrained shall not pay the Sum or Sums of Money so assessed or rated, and in Arrear as aforesaid, with all Charges attending such Distress, or replevy the Goods and Chattels so distrained, with sufficient Sureties to be given to the Sheriff of the County, or High Bailiff of the Isle of *Ely*, according to the Laws now in Being for Distresses in Cases of Non-payment of Rent within



Distress may  
be sold within  
5 Days.

within five Days next after such Distress made, and Notice thereof given as aforesaid, the Person or Persons so distraining shall and may, with the Sheriff or Under-sheriff of the County, Bailiff of the Isle of *Ely*, or Constable or Headborough of the Parish where such Distress shall be made (who are hereby required to assist therein), cause the Goods and Chattles so distrained to be appraised by two or more indifferent Persons, to be sworn by such Sheriff, Under-sheriff, Bailiff, Constable or Headborough (who are hereby impowered to administer such Oath) to appraise the same according to the best of their Judgment; and after such Appraisement, it shall and may be lawful to and for such Collector or Collectors, or other Person or Persons making such Distress, to sell the Goods and Chattles so distrained for the best Price that can be got for the same, for and towards Satisfaction of the Monies for which such Distress shall be so made, and the Charges of taking, keeping, appraising and selling the Goods and Chattles so distrained, leaving the Overplus, if any, in the Hands of such Sheriff, Under-sheriff, Bailiff, Constable or Headborough, for the Owners Use.

If the Lands shall be untenanted, and no Distress can be had, the Lands to remain as a Security for the Rates.

**Provided** always, and it is hereby enacted and declared, That in case any of the said Lands and Grounds shall, at any Time hereafter, be untenanted or unoccupied, so that no sufficient distress can be found for levying the said Rates and Taxes, then the Lands and Grounds chargeable therewith, shall always remain a Security for Payment thereof; and all Goods and Chatules, which shall at any

Time

Time thereafter be found thereon, shall and may be distrained, impounded, kept, appraised and sold in manner aforesaid, until all Arrears of the said Rates and Taxes, and the Charges of such Distress, shall be fully paid and satisfied.

And forasmuch as the Monies so to be yearly rated, levied and collected in Pursuance of this Act, will not at present be sufficient for answering the Charge and Expence of the said general Works of draining and preserving the said Lands and Grounds, and other the Purposes aforesaid; and for defraying the reasonable Charges in and about the passing this Act; it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Owners or Occupiers of the said Lands and Grounds comprized within the said several and respective Districts or Divisions, or any of them, or for any other Person or Persons, to advance and pay to the said Commissioners, or their Treasurer for the Time being, any Sum or Sums of Money, not exceeding in the whole the Sum of fourteen thousand Pounds, for the absolute Purchase of any certain Annuity or Annuities, to be paid and payable during the Term of thirty Years, or for the Life of any single Person, as the said Commissioners, or the major Part of them for the Time being, who shall be present at their said yearly or any other General Meeting, shall, from Time to Time, think fit; to commence respectively from the respective Times such Money shall be paid or advanced, and to be computed at such Rate or Rates as shall

The Sum of  
14000 l. may  
be raised by  
Annuities, to  
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Annuities for  
30 Years not  
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and for a sin-  
gle Life 7l.  
per Cent.

shall be agreed on by the said Commissioners for the Time being, or the major Part of them, who shall be present at such yearly or any other General Meeting as aforesaid, with the Person or Persons paying or advancing such Money, so as the Rate or Rates so to be agreed on for any such Annuity or Annuities for thirty Years, do not exceed six Pounds *per Annum* for any Sum of one hundred Pounds, and proportionably for any greater or less Sum; and so as the Rate or Rates so to be agreed on for any such Annuity or Annuities for the single Life of any one Person do not exceed seven Pounds *per Centum per Annum*, and proportionably for any greater or less Sum; and the Purchase-money for every such Annuity, at the Rate aforesaid, is hereby appointed to be paid to the said Commissioners, or their Treasurer for the Time being, at such Times also as shall for that Purpose be agreed on by and between the said Parties; all which Annuities shall be paid and payable to the Purchasers of the same, their Executors, Administrators or Assigns, by even and equal half-yearly Portions; the first Payment thereof to be due at the End of six Calendar Months from the Time of paying the Purchase-money for the same.

Annuities to  
be charged on  
the Rates,

**And**, to the Intent the said Annuities may be effectually secured, and duly and regularly paid, it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Commissioners, or any ten or more of them, for the Time being, may and shall, at any of the said General Meetings, by proper Instruments or

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or Deeds, under their respective Hands and Seals, grant such Annuities, to be issuing out of the said yearly Rates or Taxes, or any Part or Parts thereof, for such principal Sums as shall be so advanced as aforesaid (the Charge of such Grants to be borne and paid out of the said Taxes); and all such Annuities shall be free and exempt from all Parliamentary and other Taxes, Duties and Assessments whatsoever.

**Provided** nevertheless, and it is hereby further enacted, That if the said Commissioners, or the major Part of them, for the Time being, who shall be present at any such General Meeting as aforesaid, shall, instead of granting such Annuities as aforesaid, judge it more adviseable to borrow Money for the Purposes aforesaid, repayable with Interest, at Times to be agreed on; or shall think it proper to grant Annuities in Part, and borrow Money in other Part, for the Purposes aforesaid, then it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Commissioners, or the major Part of them, for the Time being, who shall be present at any such General Meeting as aforesaid, to borrow, take up and receive any Sum or Sums of Money that they shall think proper, and to mortgage, charge, assign and convey or incumber the said Rates or Taxes, so to be assessed and levied for the said general Works of draining as aforesaid, or any Part or Parts thereof, with and for the Repayment of the Sums so borrowed, with such Interest, at such Times, and with such Provisoos, and Conditions of Redemption, as shall be agreed on; so, nevertheless, that the principal Money so to be borrowed,

and to be Tax-free.

If it shall be thought more adviseable, Commissioners may borrow Money at an Interest, not to exceed 5 l. per Cent.



ed, together with the Money received for the Purchase of any Annuities, shall never exceed in the whole the principal Sum of fourteen thousand Pounds, and so as the Interest for the Monies, so to be borrowed by way of Mortgage as aforesaid, do not exceed the Rate of five Pounds *per Centum per Annum*.

Monies borrowed to be applied in the same Manner as the Rates.

**And** it is hereby further enacted and declared, That all and every Sum and Sums of Money which shall be raised, borrowed or received, by the said Commissioners, or any of them, or their Treasurer or Treasurers, for the Purchase of any such Annuity or Annuities, or by way of Loan or Mortgage as aforesaid, shall be applied and disposed of in such and the same Manner, as the Rates and Taxes to be assessed and levied by Virtue of and under the Authority of this Act, for the said general Works of Draining, are or ought to have been applied and disposed of, in case no such Annuity had been granted, and no such Mortgage made.

The Rates to be applied in the first Place, in Payment of Annuities, and Mortgages, and the Interest thereof.

**And** it is hereby further enacted and declared, That the Rates, Taxes and Sums of Money hereby enacted to be paid for the said general Works of Draining, by the Owners or Occupiers of the Lands, Grounds and Premises aforesaid, or such Part or Parts thereof, as shall be particularly charged or incumbered as aforesaid, shall be charged and chargeable, in the first Place, with and for the Payment of such Annuities, and all Arrears thereof, and of such Mortgage-monies, and the Interest thereof, from Time to Time; and shall vest in the respective Annuitants and Mortgages,

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upon Default of Payment of such Annuities, and Mortgage-monies, and Interest, until the same shall be fully paid and satisfied, together with the Costs and Charges occasioned by the Non-payment of the same; and the said Annuityants and Mortgagees respectively, their respective Executors, Administrators and Assigns, shall have the same Power, Rights and Privileges, of raising and recovering the Taxes, and Sums of Money, payable by the Owners or Occupiers of the said Lands, Grounds and Premises aforesaid, for and in respect of the said Annuities, and Mortgage-monies, and Interest, in case of Default of Payment thereof, as the said Commissioners or their Collectors could have had, in case the said Annuities and Mortgage-monies had been regularly and fully paid and satisfied.

And it is hereby further enacted, That the Annuities said Annuities shall be deemed personal Estates; deemed personal Estates, and that the same Annuities, and the said personal Estates, and Mortgages, and Mortgage-monies, shall and they and the Mortgages may be assignable or transferrable by Indorsement on the original Grant or Security thereof, or otherwise, without Stamp, to any Person or Persons whatsoever; and the Person or Persons to whom such Transfer or Assignment shall be made, from and after the Time that the same is entered in a Book or Books to be kept for that Purpose, as herein after is directed (which Entry is hereby required to be made upon request, and producing such Assignment, and paying two Shillings and six Pence for every such Entry) shall be well and

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Fee for entering of Assignments.

sufficiently intituled to such Annuity or Annuities, Mortgage Monies, and Interest, and all the Monies due and to grow due thereon.

Assignees may  
assign again  
*toties quoties.*

And it is hereby further enacted, That such Assignee or Assignees, and every after Assignee and Assignees, shall and may in like manner, by Indorsement or otherwise, without Stamp, assign and make over such Annuity or Annuities, Mortgage or Mortgages, and Mortgage-monies, so assigned as aforesaid, and so *toties quoties*, as Occasion shall require; every such Assignment being entered in such Book as aforesaid.

Books to be  
provided for  
entering the  
Sums borrow-  
ed, &c. the  
Parties and  
Dates.

And it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Commissioners shall cause proper Books to be made, and kept by their Clerk or Clerks, Treasurer or Treasurers, for the Time being, for the registering all Sums of Money which shall be paid and advanced for the purchasing such Annuities, or by Way of Loan or Mortgage as aforesaid; wherein the said Commissioners shall, from Time to Time, cause due and regular Entries to be made of the Sums paid or advanced, the Times when paid, and the Names of the Persons paying the same, and the Annuities or Rates of Interest payable for or in respect thereof; and also the Dates of all Assignments thereof, and the Persons Names to whom assigned; and also the Times when any such Annuity shall determine, or any such principal Sum shall be paid off and discharged.

Provided

**Provided** always, and it is hereby further enacted and declared, That no Sum or Sums of Money whatsoever shall be agreed for, taken up, or borrowed, for the Purchase of any such Annuity, or by way of Loan or Mortgage as aforesaid, by the said Commissioners at any such Meeting as aforesaid, unless forty Commissioners at least shall be then and there present, and consenting and agreeing thereto; and that no further or greater Sum or Sums of Money shall be so agreed for, taken up, or borrowed, by the said Commissioners, or any of them, at any one Meeting, than the Sum of four thousand Pounds in the whole.

Forty Commissioners to be present and consenting at the borrowing of Money, &c.

**Provided** always, and it is hereby further enacted and declared by the Authority aforesaid, That when and so soon as all the Annuities which shall be granted under the Powers and Authorities aforesaid, shall be determined, and all Arrears thereof paid, and all the Monies which shall be borrowed under the Powers aforesaid, and all Interest due for the same, shall be paid off and satisfied, it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Commissioners in general, or the major Part of them, who shall be present at their said yearly General Meeting, on the said first *Monday* in *July*, and they are hereby authorized and impowered, from Time to Time, to lessen and reduce the Rates and Taxes which shall be rated or assessed for the said general Works of Draining, in pursuance of this Act, to such Sum or Sums of Money, and in such Manner, as they, or the major Part of them, who shall be present at such yearly General Meeting, shall, from

When the Annuities shall be determined the Rates may be reduced.



Time to Time, think proper; any thing herein before-mentioned to the contrary notwithstanding.

Adjournments  
and Meetings  
of Commis-  
sioners.

And be it further enacted by the Authority afore-  
said, That the said Commissioners in ge-  
neral for the Time being, or the major Part of  
them, who shall be present at any such yearly  
or other General Meeting, shall and may from  
Time to Time adjourn themselves to meet at  
such other Time or Times, at the same Place,  
as they, or the major Part of them present,  
shall think fit; and the said Commissioners  
also shall and may meet at any other Time, for  
putting this Act in Execution, as often as shall  
be necessary, or required by any five or more  
of the said Commissioners; fourteen Days No-  
tice being given of every such Meeting in the  
*Cambridge* and *Stamford* weekly News-papers,  
so long as any such News-papers shall continue  
to be published, and in some one or more of  
the Evening Posts published in *London*.

Commissioners  
to give Orders  
for Manage-  
ment of the  
Works,

And be it further enacted and declared by  
the Authority afore-  
said, That the said Com-  
missioners in general, or the major Part of  
them, who shall be present at the said yearly  
Meeting on the said first *Monday* in *July*, or at  
any other General Meeting to be had by Ad-  
journment, or otherwise, in pursuance of the  
Power afore-  
said, are hereby impowered to  
make and give such Rules, Orders and Direc-  
tions, for the better and more orderly Manage-  
ment of the general Works of Draining, herein  
before particularly directed, and every Thing  
relating thereto; and to make and enter into  
such Contracts for the Performance of any such  
Work

and enter into  
Contracts.

Work or Works, and for supplying Materials for the same, as they, or the major Part of them present, in their Discretions shall think proper; and also at any such yearly General Meeting, on the said first *Monday* in *July*, to name and appoint a Secretary or Clerk, and one or more Treasurer or Treasurers, and one or more Surveyor or Surveyors of their Works, and one or more Collector or Collectors, Receiver or Receivers, of the said Rates and Taxes, an Officer to be resident at *Clows Cross* herein after-mentioned, and such other proper Officer or Officers as they shall think needful for the taking care of such Works, and for collecting, receiving and safe keeping the Rates and Taxes so to be assessed and levied as aforesaid; and to allow and appoint, to be paid to such Officers out of the said Rates and Taxes, such yearly or other Wages, Salaries and Rewards for their Troubles and Pains in their respective Offices, as the said Commissioners, or the major Part of them that shall be present at any such yearly General Meeting, shall think reasonable and proper; and also for the said Commissioners, or the major Part of them, who shall be present at any General Meeting to be had by Adjournment, or otherwise, from Time to Time, to remove and displace all or any of the said Officers, and appoint others in their Places or Steads, as often as they shall see Cause: And all and every such Treasurer or Treasurers, and Collector or Collector, Receiver or Receivers, so to be appointed as aforesaid, before they shall act in the Execution of their several Offices, shall

and appoint  
Officers with  
Salaries;

and may re-  
move them.

Officers to  
give Security.

give such Security to the said Commissioners, or any five or more of them, in Trust for the Purposes aforesaid, for the due Execution of their respective Offices and Trusts, as the Commissioners, or the major Part of them who shall be present at any such General Meeting, shall in their Discretions think fit; so that the Security to be given by every such Treasurer be not for less than one thousand Pounds for himself, with two sufficient Sureties, in the Penalty of five hundred Pounds each; and so that the Security to be given by every such Collector or Receiver be not for less than three hundred Pounds for himself, with two sufficient Sureties, in the Penalty of one hundred Pounds each.

Accounts to be  
kept of the As-  
sessments, Re-  
ceipts and Ex-  
penditures.

And to the End that it may appear, from Time to Time, what Money hath been raised, levied and collected for the said general Works of Draining by Virtue of this Act, and how the same hath been applied; be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Commissioners appointed to put this Act in Execution shall cause one more fair and regular Book or Books of Assessment of the said Rates and Taxes, so to be assessed for the said general Works of Draining, and one or more fair and regular Book or Books of Receipts of the Money which shall arise and be received therefrom, and of the Disbursements thereof, to be provided and kept by their Treasurer or Treasurers, Collectors or other Officers; wherein shall be fairly and regularly entered all and every Sum and Sums of Money that

that shall be assessed, collected or received, by virtue of or under the Authority of this Act; and how, when, to whom and for what the same, or any Part thereof, has been paid, applied or disposed of.

And, to the End that the said Accounts may be fairly examined; be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That once in every Year, on the Day herein before appointed for the said yearly general Meeting, the Treasurer or Treasurers, Collector or Collectors, or Receiver or Receivers for the Time being, of the said Rates and Sums of Money so to be raised as aforesaid, for the said general Works of Draining, shall attend and deliver to the said Commissioners, at their said yearly General Meeting, true Copies of their several Books of Account of the Receipts and Disbursements of all such Sums of Money as shall have been collected or received by them respectively, by Virtue of this Act, from the first *Monday* in *July* then next before to that Time; and the said Commissioners, or the major Part of them, who shall be present at such yearly General Meeting, shall then and there yearly elect and choose, nominate and appoint, a Committee of ten at least of the said Commissioners, whereof two at least shall be out of each of the said five Districts, to examine, settle and adjust the said Accounts, and report their Opinion thereof to the said Commissioners, at any subsequent General Meeting; and the Treasurer or Treasurers, and Collector or Collectors, or Receiver or Receivers, of the said Rates and Sums of Money so to be raised as aforesaid,

Copies of the Accounts to be delivered to the Commissioners at their yearly General Meeting;

Committee to be appointed to examine, settle and report the same.



said for the said general Works of Draining, are hereby required to attend the Committee so to be appointed, or any five or more of them, with their several Books of Account of the Receipts and Disbursements aforesaid, and all Vouchers for the same, at such Times and Places as the said Committee, or any five or more of them shall appoint; and such Accounts and Vouchers being considered and examined by such Committee, and Oath being made of the Truth thereof by such Treasurer or Treasurers, Collector or Collectors, Receiver or Receivers respectively (which Oath any two of the said Committee are hereby impowered to administer) shall be certified and reported by such Committee or any five or more of them, with their Opinion thereof, to the said Commissioners, at any subsequent General Meeting; and the Commissioners, or the major Part of them, who shall be present at any such General Meeting, are hereby impowered to allow and pass such Accounts, or such Part or Parts of the same as they shall see just and reasonable; and all such Account or Accounts of such Part or Parts of them, as shall be so allowed and passed by the said Commissioners, shall be fairly entered in two or more several Sets of Books to be kept for that Purpose; one Set whereof shall be kept with the said Commissioners, or their Treasurer, for the Time being; and another Set thereof in a Chest to be kept in the *Abbey House* in *Thorney* aforesaid, under the Care of the Steward of his Grace the Duke of *Bedford*, his Heirs or Assigns, for the Time being: And the said Books shall and may be inspected

Copies of the  
Accounts pass-  
ed, to be enter-  
ed in two or  
more Sets of  
Books, &c.

inspected and perused, and Extracts taken therefrom, at any Time, at seasonable Hours, by and at the Request of any of the Owners or Proprietors of any Part of the said Lands and Grounds which shall have been rated or taxed in Pursuance of this Act, paying one Shilling for every such Inspection.

And it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all and every Collector and Collectors of the said Rates and Taxes, so as aforesaid to be assessed for the said general Works of Draining, shall, from Time to Time, pay over all and every Sum and Sums of Money which he and they shall, from Time to Time, collect and receive, for or on account thereof, unto such Person or Persons as shall be appointed Treasurer or Treasurers to the said Commissioners for the Time being, at least twice in every Year, in such manner as the said Commissioners for the Time being, or the major Part of them that shall be present at any General Meeting, shall order, direct and appoint.

And it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any such Collector or Collectors, Treasurer or Treasurers, shall neglect or refuse to account for any Sum of Money by him or them collected or received in Pursuance of this Act, to the said Commissioners, or any ten or more of them, or to pay over the Balance which shall appear to be remaining on account thereof, in his or their Hands, to such Person or Persons as the said Commissioners, or any ten or more of them, shall, by Writing under their Hands, authorise the Collectors or Treasurers refusing to account or pay over the Monies in their Hands, to be committed.

authorize and impower to receive the same; then, and in such Case, it shall and may be lawful to and for any two or more Justices of the Peace of and for the said Counties of *Nor-thampton, Lincoln and Cambridge*, and the Isle of *Ely*, respectively, at a Special Sessions to be held for the same, to inquire of and concerning such Neglects, Refusals, Non-payments and Offences; and if any such Collector or Treasurer shall be convicted by the said Justices of any such Neglect, Refusal, Non-payment or Offences, then the said Justices shall, upon such Conviction, commit such Collector or Treasurer to the Common Gaol of the said Counties, or Isle, respectively, there to remain without Bail or Mainprize, until he or they shall have made a full, true and perfect Account and Payment as aforesaid.

**Meetings and Adjournments of the Commissioners for the 1st, 2d, and 4th Districts.**

**And** be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the several and respective Commissioners for the said first, second and fourth Districts or Divisions, or the major Part of them, who shall be present at the said yearly General Meeting, or at any other Meeting to be had by the Commissioners of the said three last-mentioned Districts respectively, shall and may, from Time to Time, adjourn themselves to meet at such other Time and Times, and Place, within or near their respective Districts, as they, or the major Part of them present, shall think fit; and the Commissioners for the said three last-mentioned Districts shall also and may, severally and respectively, meet at any other Time and Place, within or near their respective Districts, for putting in Execu-

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**Their Ac-  
counts to be  
audited; and  
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for the Appli-  
cation of the  
additional  
Taxes, and  
Officers to be  
appointed.**

Persons convicted of maliciously destroying or damaging any of the Works, to suffer Death ;



stricts and Divisions, or any of them, or hereafter to be made, erected, supported or maintained for the Purposes aforesaid, by Virtue of or under the Powers and Authorities of this Act; it is hereby enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person or Persons shall at any Time hereafter maliciously cut, break down, burn, demolish or destroy any Bank, Mill, Engine, Flood-gate or Sluice already made or erected, or which shall at any Time hereafter be making or erecting, or made or erected, supported or maintained for answering the Purposes aforesaid, every Person or Persons so offending, being thereof convicted, shall be guilty of Felony, and shall suffer Death as Felons, without Benefit of Clergy:

and convicted  
of stopping up,  
&c. any River  
or Drain,

to forfeit 100l.

And if any Person or Persons shall at any Time hereafter maliciously stop, dam up, demolish, damage or destroy any River, Drain, Watercourse, Door, Dam, Bridge, or other Work or Works already made or erected, or which shall at any Time hereafter be making or erecting, or made or erected, supported or maintained for answering the Purposes aforesaid, every Person or Persons so offending, being thereof convicted before any two or more Justices of the Peace for the Counties and Isle aforesaid, or either of them, who are hereby required to hear and determine the same, on the Oath of two or more credible Witnesses, shall forfeit the Sum of one hundred Pounds to the said Commissioners, their Successors, Heirs or Assigns, to be applied for the respective Purposes to which the said Rates and Taxes are thereby directed to be respectively

tively applied; and in Default of Payment thereof, the Person or Persons so offending shall be sent to the House of Correction of the County or Isle where such Offence shall be committed, there to be kept to hard Labour for such Time as such Justices shall order and direct, not exceeding six Months.

**Provided** always, and it is hereby enacted Commissioners and declared by the Authority aforesaid, That to maintain the the Commissioners for the Time being, for Banks of putting this Act in Execution, shall at all Shire Drain, Times hereafter make, support and maintain the Banks of *Shire Drain* aforesaid, in as good and substantial Plight and Condition as the best Part of the Banks of the said River *Old South Eau*, within the North Level, now are, or at any Time hereafter shall be made, supported and maintained; and shall also at all Times hereafter make, support and maintain the Sluice, Flood-gates and Doors at *Clows Cross* aforesaid, of such sufficient Strength and Con- and the Sluice dition as to stop, resist and uphold the Land- at Clows Cross, waters, in case any Breach or Overflowing of the Banks of *Shire Drain* aforesaid shall at any Time happen, by Means of such Land-waters.

**Provided** also, and it is hereby further In case the enacted and declared by the Authority afore- Banks of Shire said, That if at any Time hereafter any Breach Drain shall or Overflowing of the Banks of *Shire Drain* be broken or aforesaid shall happen by Means of the Land- overflowed, waters running out of and off the North Level aforesaid into *Shire Drain* aforesaid; then and in such Case, upon Notice given to an Officer, to be appointed by the said Commissioners for that

the Flood-  
gates at Clows  
Crofs to be  
shut down.

that Purpose, and to be resident at the *Clows* aforesaid, by any Owner or Proprietor of Lands within the hundred of *Wisbich* in the said Isle of *Ely* and County of *Cambridge*, or within *South Holland* in the County of *Lincoln*, the Flood-gates or Doors of *Clows Crofs* aforesaid shall be immediately shut down by such Officer; and in case of such Officer's Absence from his said Place of Residence, and in Default of such Officer's shutting down the said Flood-gates or Doors immediately after such Notice, it shall and may be lawful to and for such Owner or Proprietor, who shall so give Notice as aforesaid, to shut down the same, or cause the same to be shut down; and the said Doors or Flood-gates, when so shut down, shall continue shut until such Breach of Bank or Overflowing shall be repaired, stopped or discontinued; any Power or Powers now vested in any Person or Persons, Body Corporate or Bodies Corporate, to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

Commissioners  
not to exercise  
any other Pow-  
er over Shire  
Drain or Old  
South Eau Ri-  
ver, than the  
Conservators  
have a Right  
to use.

**Provided** also, and it is hereby further enacted and declared by the Authority aforesaid, That nothing herein contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to give any further or greater Power to the Commissioners for putting this Act into Execution, or any of them, in or over *Shire Drain* aforesaid, or the said River *Old South Eau*, or the Lands and Grounds adjoining thereto, or for the making or erecting any Works in or about the same, or other or larger Power whatsoever over the said Drain (except as aforesaid) than the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Com-

pany

pany of Conservators of the Great Level of the Fens now lawfully may have and use; or to take away from any Person or Persons whatsoever any Right or Rights they now lawfully may have in and over the said Drains, or either of them; any thing herein contained to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

**Provided** also, and it is hereby further enacted and declared by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Company of Conservators of the Great Level of the Fens aforesaid, shall not, at any Time hereafter, have, use or exercise any Power, Jurisdiction or Authority whatsoever, over the Commissioners named and appointed, and to be named and appointed, elected and chosen for putting this Act in Execution; or in or over any Part of the Lands and Grounds comprized in any of the said several Districts or Divisions, or in or over any River, Drain, Bank, Sluice, Engine or other Work, already made, or hereafter to be made, by Virtue of and under the Authority of this Act, within any of the said several Districts, for the Purposes herein before-mentioned, other than and except the Works herein before placed under the particular Care, Management and Direction of the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty, and except the Powers and Authorities vested in the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty, by the said Acts of the fifteenth and twentieth Years of King *Charles* the Second, or either of them, for levying, recovering and receiving the Taxes chargeable by

Conservators not to exercise any Power over the Commissioners, or the Works.  
other than over the Works put under their particular Care.



by Virtue of the said Acts of Parliament, or one of them, herein before directed to be received and applied by the said Corporation, in Manner herein before-mentioned.

Limitation of  
Commissioners  
Power over  
Dowdsdale  
Bank ;

**Provided** also, and it is hereby further enacted and declared by the Authority aforesaid, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to give to the said Commissioners for putting this Act into Execution, or any of them, any Power or Authority in or over the Bank called *Dowdsdale Bank* (being that Part of the Bank herein before described to be the North East and North Bank of the River *Old South Eau*, which reaches from *Crowland Town* to *Dowdsdale*) other than and except the Power hereby given to the said Commissioners of raising and strengthening the said Bank, from Time to Time, according to the Dimensions prescribed by this Act ; but that, subject to the aforesaid Power of raising and strengthening the said Bank, the said *Thomas Orby Hunter*, his Heirs and Assigns, shall continue in the Possession, Usage and Disposal of the said Bank called *Dowdsdale Bank*, according to the full Intent and Meaning of the Proviso made in that behalf in the said Act of Parliament made and passed in the fifteenth Year of King *Charles the Second*, in as full and ample Manner, to all Intents and Purposes, as if this Act had never been made ; any thing herein contained to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

**Provided**

**Provided** also, and it is hereby further enacted and declared by the Authority aforesaid, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to give to the said Commissioners for putting this Act into Execution, or any of them, any Power or Authority in or over such Part of the South Bank of the said River *Old South Eau* as is included in the said third District or Division, other than and except the Power hereby given to the said Commissioners of raising and strengthening the said Bank, from Time to Time, according to the Dimensions prescribed by this Act; but that, subject to the aforesaid Power of raising and strengthening the said Bank, the said *John Duke of Bedford*, his Heirs and Assigns, shall continue in the Possession, Usage and Disposol of such Part of the said South Bank as is included in the said third District or Division, in as full and ample Manner, to all Intents and Purposes, as if this Act had never been made; any thing herein contained to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

and over such Part of the Old South Eau as lies in the said District;

**Provided** also, and it is hereby further enacted and declared by the Authority aforesaid, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to give to the said Commissioners for putting this Act into Execution, or any of them, any Power or Authority in or over such Part of the South-west Bank of the said River *Old South Eau*, otherwise the antient Branch of the *Nene*, as is included in the said first District or Division,

and over such Part of the South-west Bank of the antient Branch of the *Nene* as is included in the first District.

other than and except the Power hereby given to the said Commissioners of raising and strengthening the said Bank, from Time to Time, according to the Dimensions prescribed by this Act; but that, subject to the aforesaid Power of raising and strengthening the said Bank, the said *Henry Earl of Lincoln*, his Heirs and Assigns, shall continue in the Possession, Usage and Disposal of such Part of the said South-west Bank as is included in the said first District or Division, in as full and ample Manner, to all Intents and Purposes, as if this Act had never been made; any thing herein contained to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

Perpetual and  
annual elective  
Commissioners  
for the first  
District.

And, for supplying and continuing a sufficient Number of Commissioners for putting this Act in Execution; be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Right Honourable *Brownlow Earl of Exeter*, his Heirs and Assigns, being Owners of the Estate the said Earl is now seized of within the said first District, and the Right Honourable *Henry Earl of Lincoln*, his Heirs or Assigns, being Owner or Owners of *Highborough Fen* and *Lowborough Fen*, or his or their lawful Attorney, shall always be and continue Commissioners of and for the said first District or Division; and that so many other Commissioners of and for the said first District shall be named and appointed annually by the said *Henry Earl of Lincoln*, his Heirs or Assigns, and certified under his or their Hand or Hands to the said Commissioners, at their yearly General Meeting aforesaid, as shall, together with the said

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Earl, his Heirs or Assigns, or his or their Attorney, make one Commissioner for every five hundred Acres of Land charged with the said Taxes, which the said Earl of *Lincoln*, his Heirs or Assigns, shall for the Time being be seized and possessed of in his or their own Right, within the said first District; and that one other Commissioner of and for the said first District or Division, shall be named and appointed annually by the Lord or Lady of the Manor of *Crowland* for the Time being, and certified under his or her Hand to the said Commissioners at their yearly General Meeting aforesaid; and that every Person, who shall for the Time being be seized or possessed of five hundred Acres of Land, or upwards, within the said first District, and paying the said Taxes for the same, in his own Right, shall, during the Time he shall be so seized or possessed, be a Commissioner himself, or name and appoint some other Person to be a Commissioner in his Stead; and shall also name and appoint so many other Persons for Commissioners, as shall make one Commissioner for every five hundred Acres of Land he shall be so seized or possessed of for the Time being; and that so many other Commissioners of and for the said first District, shall be yearly chosen on the last *Monday* in *June* in every Year, out of the Proprietors or Occupiers of Lands within the said District, at the Town of *Eye*, by such Persons as shall for the Time being be seized or possessed of twenty Acres of Land within the said District, paying the



Taxes charged by this Act, in their own Rights for the same, as together with the said Earl of *Lincoln*, his Heirs or Assigns, or his or their Attorney, and the said other Commissioners, in Right of Tenure as aforesaid; and the Commissioners so to be named and appointed as aforesaid, shall make one Commissioner for every five hundred Acres of Land charged with the said Taxes within the said first District, over and above the said Earl of *Exeter*, his Heirs or Assigns; and the Persons so elected shall be certified by the Electors, or the major Part of them, to the said Commissioners at their yearly General Meeting, as aforesaid; that the Right Honourable *George William* Earl of *Coventry*, his Heirs or Assigns, being Owners of the Lands the said Earl is now seized of in *Basinghall Moor*, or a Person to be yearly named and appointed by him or them, shall always be a Commissioner for the said second District or Division; and that one other Commissioner of and for the said Second District shall be yearly named and appointed by the Lord or Lords of the Manor of *Peterborough* for the Time being: And that every Person who shall, for the Time being, be seized or possessed of five hundred Acres of Land or upwards, within the said second District, and paying the said Taxes for the same, in his own Right, shall, during the Time he shall be so seized or possessed, be a Commissioner himself, or name and appoint some other Person to be a Commissioner in his Stead; and shall also name and appoint so many other Persons for Commissioners, as shall make one Commissioner

For the second  
Division.

sioner for every five hundred Acres of Land  
 he shall be so seized or possessed of for the  
 Time being; and that so many other Com-  
 missioners of and for the said second District  
 or Division shall be annually chosen upon the  
 said last *Monday in June* in every Year, at *The*  
*Dog in the Doublet Inn* upon the North Bank,  
 so long as the same shall continue an Inn or  
 Publick House, and afterwards at such other  
 Place as the Proprietors of Lands in the said  
 District shall appoint, out of the Proprietors  
 or Occupiers of Lands within the said District,  
 by such Persons as shall, for the Time being,  
 be seized or possessed of twenty Acres of Land  
 in that District, paying the Taxes to be  
 charged by this Act, in their own Rights, for  
 the same, as shall make one Commissioner for  
 every five hundred Acres of Land charged  
 with the said Taxes within the said second Di-  
 strict; all which Commissioners for the said  
 second District shall be yearly certified to the  
 said Commissioners, at their yearly General  
 Meeting, in manner aforesaid; that the said *John Duke of Bedford* his Heirs or Assigns,  
 or his or their lawful Attorney, shall be and  
 continue a Commissioner of and for the said  
 third District, so long as he or they shall be  
 seized or possessed of five hundred Acres of  
 Land, in his or their own Right, charged  
 with the said Taxes within the same; and that  
 so many other Commissioners of and for the  
 said third District shall be annually named and  
 appointed by the said *John Duke of Bedford*,  
 his Heirs or Assigns, and certified under his or  
 their

For the third  
District.

For the fourth  
District.

their Hand or Hands to the said Commissioners, at their yearly General Meeting aforesaid, as shall, together with the said *John Duke of Bedford*, his Heirs or Assigns, or his or their Attorney, make one Commissioner for every five hundred Acres of Land charged with the said Taxes within the said third District or Division; that every Person who shall for the Time being be seized in Possession of five hundred Acres of Land, or upwards, within the said fourth District or Division, and paying Taxes for the same, in his or their own Right, shall be a Commissioner himself for the said fourth District, during the Time he shall be so seized or possessed, or name and appoint some other Person to be a Commissioner in his Stead; and shall also name and appoint so many other Persons for Commissioners, as shall make one Commissioner for every five hundred Acres of Land he shall be so seized or possessed of for the Time being; and that so many more Persons, being Owners or Occupiers of Lands in the said fourth District, shall be yearly chosen for Commissioners on the said last *Monday in June*, at or near *Clowes Cross*, by such Persons as shall for the Time being be seized or possessed of twenty Acres of Land in the said District, paying the Taxes to be charged by this Act, in their own Rights, for the same, and certified to the said Commissioners, at their yearly General Meeting, in Manner aforesaid, as shall make in the whole one Commissioner for every five hundred Acres of Land charged with the said Taxes

Taxes within the said fourth District; that the said *Beverley Butler*, his Heirs or Assigns, being Owners of the Land now possessed by him in *Porland* aforesaid, or one other Person to be yearly nominated and appointed by him or them, in his or their Stead, and certified in manner aforesaid, shall always be and continue a Commissioner for the said fifth District or Division for the Time being; and that the said *Thomas Orby Hunter*, his Heirs or Assigns, or his or their lawful Attorney, shall be and continue another Commissioner for the said fifth District or Division, so long as he or they shall be seized or possessed of five hundred Acres of Land, in his or their own Right, charged with the said Taxes within the same; and that so many other Persons to be Commissioners shall be annually named and appointed by the said *Thomas Orby Hunter*, his Heirs or Assigns, and certified in manner aforesaid to the said Commissioners at their yearly General Meeting aforesaid, as shall make one Commissioner for every five hundred Acres of Land charged with the said Taxes within the said fifth District or Division, over and above the Lands the said *Beverley Butler* is now possessed of; which said several Commissioners so as aforesaid nominated and appointed, and directed to be yearly nominated and appointed, elected and chosen, shall, from Time to Time, be and continue Commissioners for putting this Act in Execution, until the last *Monday* in *June* in the next succeeding Year, and from thenceforth until other Commissioners shall be nominated or appointed, elected or chosen, in their respective Places and Steads.



Qualification  
of Persons in-  
titled to vote  
in the Election  
of one or more  
Commissioners.

**Provided** always, and it is hereby enacted and declared by the Authority aforesaid, That every Person that shall, for the Time being, be seized or possessed of twenty Acres of Land more than will intitle him to name and appoint one or more Commissioners within any of the said Districts, as aforesaid, and paying Taxes for the same in his own Right, shall also be intitled to vote in the Election of the other Commissioners for the District wherein he shall be so seized or possessed.

New Com-  
missioners to  
be elected in  
the Room of  
such as shall  
die or be dis-  
qualified.

**Provided** also, and it is hereby enacted and declared, That if any Person or Persons hereby nominated and appointed, or hereafter, by Virtue of or under the Powers and Authorities of this Act, to be nominated or appointed, elected or chosen, to be a Commissioner or Commissioners of the said several Districts respectively, or any of them, shall die or become disqualified, it shall and may be lawful to and for the several Persons herein before-mentioned respectively to elect or choose, nominate or appoint, and certify in manner aforesaid, some other Person or Persons, properly qualified to be a Commissioner or Commissioners, in the Place or Stead of the Commissioner or Commissioners so dying or becoming disqualified from Time to Time, as often as Occasion shall require; and the Commissioner or Commissioners so elected or chosen, nominated or appointed, shall, from Time to Time, have the same Powers and Authorities as the Commissioners hereby nominated and appointed, and directed to be yearly nominated

nated or appointed, and elected or chosen, in manner aforesaid.

**Provided** also, and it is hereby further enacted and declared by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Commissioners, and every of them, before he or they take upon himself or themselves the Execution of any of the Powers or Authorities hereby given them (other than the administering the Oath or solemn Affirmation following to one another) shall take the following Oath, or being of the People called *Quakers*, the following solemn Affirmation, *videlicet*;

Commissioners  
to take the  
Oath follow-  
ing before  
they act.

*I A. B. do swear (or being of the People called Quakers, do solemnly and truly declare and affirm) That I will, without Favour or Affection, Hatred or Malice, truly and impartially, according to the best of my Skill and Knowledge, execute and perform all and every the Powers and Authorities established by an Act made in the twenty-seventh Year of the Reign of his Majesty King George the Second, intituled, An Act for discharging the Corporation of the Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Company of Conservators of the Great Level of the Fens, commonly called Bedford Level, from a Debt due to the Duke of Bedford and Earl of Lincoln; and for enabling the Proprietors of Lands in the North Level, Part of the said Great Level, to raise Money to discharge the Proportion of the said North Level in the Debts of the said Corporation; and for ascertaining and*  
appro-

appropriating the Taxes to be laid on the said *North Level*; and for the more effectual draining and preserving the said *North Level*, and divers Lands adjoining thereto, in the Manor of *Crowland*.

which said Oath or Affirmation any one of the said Commissioners is hereby impowered to administer.

Persons holding any Place of Profit under this Act disqualified from voting.

**Provided** also, and it is hereby further enacted and declared by the Authority aforesaid, That no Person or Persons, who shall at any Time hereafter be possessed of any Place of Profit under this Act, shall sit or vote, or have any Power or Authority as Commissioners for any of the said Districts, during the Time he or they shall be possessed of any such Place of Profit, as aforesaid.

Proceedings and Orders of Commissioners to be entered and signed.

**Provided** always, and it is hereby further enacted and declared by the Authority aforesaid, That all Orders and Proceedings of the said Commissioners, at their General Meetings aforesaid, shall be entered in a Book or Books to be kept for that Purpose, and such Orders so entered shall be signed by five or more of the Commissioners assembled at such Meetings, and by the Clerk or Clerks to the said Commissioners; and such Orders so signed, shall be deemed and taken to be original Orders, as fully and effectually as if the same were under the Hands and Seals of the major Part of the Commissioners then assembled; which said Book or Books, and also the

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Book hereby directed to be kept for registering the Securities, Assignments and Transfers aforesaid, shall and may be produced and read in Evidence in all Cases of Suits or Actions, touching any Thing done in Pursuance and by the Authority of this Act.

**Provided** always, and it is hereby further enacted and declared by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Action, Suit or Information shall be commenced or prosecuted against any Person or Persons for any Thing done or to be done in Pursuance of this Act, or in Execution of any of the Powers and Authorities hereby given, every such Action, Suit or Information shall be commenced or prosecuted within twelve Months next after the Fact committed, and not afterwards; and shall be laid or brought in the said Counties of *Northampton, Lincoln and Cambridge*, or the Isle of *Ely*, or one of them, and not elsewhere; and the Defendant or Defendants in such Action or Suit shall and may plead the General Issue, Not guilty; and if in Replevin, may justify and avow by Virtue of this Act, as Persons acting under and by the Authority of Commissioners of Sewers are enabled to do, and give this Act, and the Special Matter in Evidence, without specially pleading the same (other than as aforesaid) at any Trial to be had thereupon; and that the same was done in Pursuance, and by the Authority of this Act; and if the same shall appear to have been so done, or if any such Action or Suit shall be brought after the Time before limited

Limitation of Actions.

General Issue



mitted for bringing the same, or shall be brought in any other County, then the Jury shall find for the Defendant or Defendants, Avowant or Avowants; or if the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs shall become nonsuit or forbear Prosecution, or discontinue his or their Suit or Suits; or if any Judgment shall be given against him, her or them, upon Demurrer, or otherwise, then in any of the said Cases, the Defendant or Defendants, and Avowant or Avowants, shall recover double Costs; for which he, she or they shall have like Remedy as where Costs by Law are awarded.

**Double Costs.**

**Right of  
Lords of Ma-  
nors reserved  
to them;**

**Provided** always, and be it hereby enacted, That all such Right or Rights as any Lord or Lords of any Manor or Manors, Liberties, Hundred or Half-hundred, have therefore had within his or their respective Manor or Manors, Liberties, Hundred or Half-hundred, within or without the said several Districts or Divisions, or any of them, to Waifs, Estrays, Felons Goods, Privileges of Arrests, Escheats and all other Royalties, not prejudicial to the Draining, be hereby saved to them, their Heirs, Successors and Assigns, severally and respectively; any Thing in this Act to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

**and of the  
Conservators  
and others.**

**Saving** also, and always reserving unto the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Company of Conservators of the Great Level of the Fens, and their Successors, and to all and every other Person and Persons, his, her and their Heirs, Executors and Administrators,

ministrators, all such lawful Rights, Powers, Jurisdictions and Authorities now vested in and enjoyed by them, as are not hereby taken away, altered or repealed.

And be it further enacted, That this Act Publick Act: shall be deemed, taken and allowed to be a Publick Act; and all Judges, Justices, and other Persons, are hereby required to take Notice thereof as such, without specially pleading the same.

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Anno Regni

C E O R G I I II.

R E G I S

*Magnæ Britanniae, Franciæ & Hiberniæ,*

VICESIMO SEPTIMO.

At the Parliament begun and holden  
at *Westminster* the tenth Day of *November Anno Dom. 1747*, in the  
twenty-first Year of the Reign of  
our Sovereign Lord *GEORGE* the  
Second, by the Grace of God, of  
*Great Britain, France and Ireland*  
King, Defender of the Faith, &c.

And from thence continued by several Proro-  
gations to the fifteenth Day of *November*  
1753, being the Seventh Session of this pre-  
sent Parliament.

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Anno Regni

# GEORGE II.

REGIS

Magne Britannie, France & Hibernie

VICESIMO SEPTIMO

At the Parliament begun and holden  
at Westminster the tenth Day of No-  
vember Anno Domini 1707, in the  
twenty-first Year of the Reign of  
our Sovereign Lord GEORGE the  
second, by the Grace of God, of  
Great Britain, France and Ireland  
King, Defender of the Faith, &c.

And from thence continued by several Procla-  
mations to the fifteenth Day of November  
1707, being the seventh Session of this pre-  
sent Parliament.

GEORGE II.  
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Anno vicesimo septimo

## GEORGII II. Regis.

AN Act for improving and preserving the Navigation from *Salter's Load Sluice*, in the County of *Norfolk*, to *Standground Sluice*, in the County of *Huntingdon*, and from *Flood's Ferry*, in the Isle of *Ely*, in the County of *Cambridge*, to *Ramsay High Load*, in the said County of *Huntingdon*; and also the Navigation from *Old Bedford Sluice*, in the said County of *Norfolk*, to the River *Nene*, in the Parish of *Ramsay*, in the said County of *Huntingdon*.

**W**HEREAS the Navigation Preamble, from the Port of *King's Lynn* to *Standground Sluice*, near the City of *Peterborough*, was anciently carried on from *Saltbarn Load*, otherwise *Salter's Load Sluice*, in the County of *Norfolk*,

folk, through *Well Creek*, and the River *Nene*, to *Flood's Ferry*, in the County of *Cambridge*; and from thence through *Ramsay Meer*, *Ugg Meer* and *Whittlesea Meer*, in the County of *Huntingdon*; but the Navigation through the said Meers being, at all Times, extremely tedious, difficult and dangerous, and very frequently altogether impracticable, the Navigation from the said Port of *King's Lynn* to *Stand-ground Sluice* aforesaid has, for many Years, been carried on from *Flood's Ferry*, aforesaid through a certain Drain called *Whittlesea Dike*, being the safest and nearest Passage:

And whereas the Navigation from the Parish of *Ramsay*, and the adjacent Places, to the said Port of *King's Lynn*, will be most conveniently carried on by *Flood's Ferry* through the River *Nene*, *Well Creek* and *Salter's Load* aforesaid:

And whereas the Navigation from the Towns of *Chatteris*, *Maney* and *Welney*, to the said Port of *King's Lynn*, has, for many Years, been chiefly carried on through a certain Drain, called the *Forty-foot Drain*, and the *Old Bedford River*:

And whereas the Trade carried on upon the said Rivers, and through the said Creek and Drains, is greatly increased; and it is become necessary to clean, deepen, widen and scour the said Rivers, Creek and Drains; which cannot be effected without a considerable Expence:

And whereas the preserving and improving of the said Navigations will be a great and general Advantage to the said Port of *King's Lynn* and the

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the City of *Peterborough*, and to all the Towns and Villages situate near the said Rivers, and to the whole adjacent Country :

*May it therefore please your MAJESTY,*

That it may be enacted; And be it enacted by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That the Governor, Commissioners, Bailiffs and Conservators of the Corporation appointed.

of the Great Level of the Fens, called *Bedford Level*, for the Time being; the Mayor, Recorder, Aldermen and Common Council of the Corporation of *King's Lynn*, for the Time being, together with ten Inhabitants of the City of *Peterborough*; six Inhabitants of the Town of *Whittlesea*, being Owners of Lands in the Middle Level, within the said Great Level of the Fens; six Inhabitants of the Parish of *Doddington*, with its Members; that is to say, one Inhabitant of the Town of *Doddington*, one Inhabitant of the Town of *Benwick*, one Inhabitant of the Town of *Wimblington*, and three Inhabitants of the Town of *March*, being respectively Owners of Lands in the said Middle Level; four Inhabitants of the Parish of *Ramsay*, being Owners of Lands in the said Middle Level; two Inhabitants of the Parish of *Chateris*, being Owners of Lands in the said Middle Level; two Inhabitants of the Town of *Maney*, being Owners of Lands in the said Middle Level; two Inhabitants of the Town of



*Welney*, being Owners of Lands in the said Middle Level; four Inhabitants of the Parish of *Upwell*, being Owners of Lands in the said Middle Level; two Inhabitants of the Parish of *Outwell*, being Owners of Lands in the said Middle Level; four Inhabitants of the Parish of *Downham*, in the County of *Norfolk*; two Inhabitants of the Parish of *Thrapston*; two Inhabitants of the Parish of *Islip*; two Inhabitants of the Parish of *Oundle*; two Inhabitants of the Parish of *Taxley*; two Inhabitants of the Parish of *Fletton*; two Inhabitants of the Parish of *Elton*; and two Inhabitants of the Parish of *Thornhaugh* with *Wandsford*; to be respectively chosen, as herein after is directed; shall be Commissioners for preserving and improving the Navigation from *Salibirn Load*, otherwise *Salters Load*, through *Well Creek* to the Town of *Outwell*, and from thence through the River *Nene* by the Towns of *Upwell* and *March*, directly to *Flood's Ferry* aforesaid, and from thence to a Place called *Ramsay High Load*; and also for improving and preserving the Navigation from *Flood's Ferry* through *Whittlesea Dike* to *Standground Sluice* aforesaid; and also the Navigation from *Old Bedford Sluice*, through the *Old Bedford River* and the *Forty-foot Drain*, to the River *Nene*, in the said Parish of *Ramsay*; and for putting in Execution all other the Powers and Authorities by this Act granted.

Commissioners for Peterborough and the several Towns, to be chosen annually by the Inhabitants;

And be it further enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That such of the Inhabitants of the City of *Peterborough*, and of the said several Towns and Parishes of *Whittlesea*, *Doddington*, with its Members, *Ramsay*, *Chate-*

ris, *Many, Welney, Upwell, Outwell, Downham, Thrapston, Islip, Oundle, Yaxley, Fletton, Elton and Thornhaugh* with *Wandsford*, respectively, as have Right to assemble in the Vestries of their respective Towns, Parishes or Chapelries, shall meet in their respective Vestries upon *Monday* in *Easter* Week, in the Year one thousand seven hundred and fifty-four; and shall also meet in like manner upon *Monday* in *Easter* Week in every succeeding Year; and choose such of the Inhabitants of the said City, Towns and Parishes, respectively, as the major Part of the Inhabitants then present shall think proper (not exceeding the respective Numbers herein before limited) to be Commissioners for the said City, Towns and Parishes, respectively, together with the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators of the said Corporation of the Great Level of the Fens, and with the Mayor, Recorder, Aldermen and Common Council of the Borough of *King's Lynn*, for putting this Act in Execution.

And be it further enacted, That the Churchwardens of the Parish of *Saint John the Baptist*, in the City of *Peterborough*, and also the Churchwarden or Churchwardens, Chapelwarden or Chapelwardens, of each of the said other respective Places, shall transmit a Certificate, under their or his Hands or Hand, containing the Names and Descriptions of the several Persons, who shall be chosen Commissioners for the said City, and for the said respective Places, to the other Commissioners by this Act appointed, at the next Meeting to be held after the Commissioners for the said City, and for the said respective Places, shall be

and to be certified by the Churchwardens.

chosen; which Certificate shall be in the Form following; that is to say,

Form of a Certificate.

*THESE are to certify, that*  
*of the City of Peterborough (or of*  
*in the County of ) are (or is) chosen*  
*Commissioners (or a Commissioner) for the said*  
*City, or for the Parish or Town of in*  
*the County of to put in Execution an*  
*Act, made in the twenty-seventh Year of the*  
*Reign of King George the Second, intituled,*  
*An Act for improving and preserving the Na-*  
*avigation from Salters Load Sluice, in the Coun-*  
*ty of Norfolk, to Standground Sluice, in the*  
*County of Huntingdon, and from Flood's Ferry,*  
*in the Isle of Ely, in the County of Cambridge,*  
*to Ramsey High Load, in the said County of*  
*Huntingdon; and also the Navigation from*  
*Old Bedford Sluice, in the said County of Nor-*  
*folk, to the River Nene, in the Parish of Ram-*  
*sey, in the said County of Huntingdon. Given*  
*under my Hand (or our Hands) this*  
*Day of*

And that the Sum of two Shillings and six Pence, and no more, shall be paid to, or for the Use of, the Churchwarden or Churchwardens, Chapelwarden or Chapelwardens, signing such Certificate, and shall be charged upon the Tolls to be collected in Pursuance of this Act.

Commissioners for Peterborough, and the several Towns, to be appointed by the other Commissioners, if not chosen by the Inhabitants.

*Provided* always, and it is hereby enacted, That if the Inhabitants of the said City, or of any of the Places aforesaid, shall in any Year neglect to choose Commissioners upon the

the said *Monday* in *Easter* Week, then, and in such Case, the Majority of the other Commissioners, present at the next Meeting after the said *Monday* in *Easter* Week, shall nominate the like Number of Inhabitants of the said City, or of such Place or Places, respectively, as by this Act are directed to be chosen, to be Commissioners for the said City, or for such Place or Places respectively; and the Commissioners nominated, as aforesaid, shall be joined with the other Commissioners, and shall be, and are hereby, impowered to act in as full and ample Manner, as if they had been chosen by the Inhabitants of the said City, or of such Place or Places respectively, in manner herein before directed.

And be it further enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That in case of any Vacancy by the Death, Disqualification or Resignation of any Commissioner for the said City, or for any of the Places aforesaid, another Commissioner shall be chosen by the Inhabitants of the said City, or of such Place, respectively, within the Space of one Calendar Month after such Vacancy shall happen; and Notice shall be given in the Parish-Church of the said City, or in the Church or Chapel of such Place, respectively, and shall be affixed on the Door of the said Church or Chapel, that on a certain Day, to be specified in such Notice (eight Days at the least intervening between the Day so specified, and the Time, when such Notice shall be given) a Meeting will be held for the Choice of a Commissioner, as aforesaid: And in case the said Inhabitants shall refuse or

In case of Vacancy, new Commissioners to be chosen.



neglect to choose such Commissioner within the Time before limited, then it shall be lawful for the surviving or remaining Commissioners, or Commissioner, for the said City, or for such Place, respectively, where such Vacancy shall happen, or the major Part of them, by Writing under their or his Hands or Hand, and Seals or Seal, to appoint an Inhabitant of the said City, or of such Place, respectively, to be a Commissioner in the Room of the Person so deceased, disqualified or resigning: And in case the said surviving or remaining Commissioners, or Commissioner, shall neglect or refuse to appoint such Commissioner within the Space of one Calendar Month, after the Time before limited for the Choice of such Commissioner by the Inhabitants of the said City, or of such Place, respectively, shall be elapsed, then it shall be lawful for the other Commissioners, at their next Meeting after the Expiration of the said two Calendar Months, to appoint an Inhabitant of the said City, or of such Place, respectively, where such Vacancy shall happen, to be a Commissioner in the Room of the Person so deceased, disqualified or resigning: And, in any of the said Cases, the Person, so chosen or appointed as aforesaid, shall have the like Power and Authority, as the other Commissioners, appointed by or in pursuance of this Act, are invested with.

Qualification  
of Commissioners.

**Provided** always, and it is hereby further enacted, That no Person shall be capable of acting as a Commissioner in any Case in the Execution of this Act, unless he shall be in the actual Possession, Enjoyment or Receipt of the Rents and Profits of an Estate of the clear yearly

yearly Value of twenty Pounds; or shall be possessed of a personal Estate alone, or a real and personal Estate together, of the Value of five hundred Pounds; or shall be Heir apparent to a Person in Possession of an Estate of the clear yearly Value of one hundred Pounds: And if any Person, not qualified as aforesaid, shall presume to act as a Commissioner in the Execution of this Act, he shall, for every such Offence, forfeit the Sum of fifty Pounds; to be recovered, with full Costs of Suit, by any Person who will inform or sue for the same, in any of his Majesty's Courts of Record at *Westminster*, by Action of Debt, or upon the Case, Bill, Suit or Information; wherein no Essoign, Protection, Privilege or Wager of Law, nor more than one Impar lance, shall be allowed; and in which Action or Suit it shall be only necessary for the Plaintiff, or Informer, to prove, that the Defendant acted as a Commissioner in the Execution of this Act; and a Verdict shall be found against the Defendant, unless he shall prove, in his Defence, that he was, at the Time of his so acting, qualified according to the true Intent and Meaning of this Act.

And be it further enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That the first Meeting of the said Commissioners shall be held on the twelfth Day of *June* one thousand seven hundred and fifty-four, at the Town of *March* in the Isle of *Ely*, in the County of *Cambridge*; and that the second Meeting of the said Commissioners shall be held at the Town of *Downham*, in the County of *Norfolk*; and that the third Meeting of the said Commissioners shall be held at the City of *Peterborough*, in the County of *Nor-*

Commissioners  
to meet in ro-  
tation at  
March, Down-  
ham, and Pe-  
terborough.

*Northampton* : And that the said Commissioners may meet, from Time to Time, by Adjournment, or otherwise, at each of the said Places, in the Order and Course herein after prescribed, as often as they shall think proper; not less than nine of the said Commissioners (whereof four at the least to be Commissioners for the said City, or for some or one of the several Places aforesaid, impowered by this Act to choose Commissioners) being present at every such Meeting.

A General Meeting to be held annually at March.

**Provided** always, That a General Meeting of the said Commissioners shall be annually held at the said Town of *March*, upon the third *Thursday* in *August*; and that all Meetings of the said Commissioners, in the Intervals between the said General Meetings, shall be held, in Rotation, at the said Towns of *March* and *Downham*, and the said City of *Peterborough*, except where a Meeting shall be appointed to be held by Notice only, and not by Adjournment; in which Case, such Meeting shall be held at the Place next in Rotation to the Place where the next Meeting is appointed to be held by Adjournment.

Commissioners to adjourn *de die in diem*;

**Provided** also, and be it enacted, That the said Commissioners shall, at every Meeting, have full Power and Authority to adjourn *de die in diem*, and meet again at the same Place, until the Business to be transacted at such Meeting shall be compleated: And that the said Commissioners, at all and several their Meetings to put this Act, or any Part thereof, into Execution, shall, out of their own private

and defray their own Expences.

Mo-

Monies, pay and defray all their own Charges and Expences.

And be it further enacted, That Notice, in Notice to be Writing, of every Meeting of the said Com- given of Meet- missioners (except of the Meetings to be held ings. by Adjournment *de die in diem*, as aforesaid) shall be signed by nine or more of the said Commissioners, and affixed upon the Market-cross, or in some other Publick Place, in the Cities of *Peterborough* and *Ely*, and in the Towns of *Lynn*, *Downham*, *Chatteris*, *March*, *Ramsey* and *Upwell*, aforesaid; and shall be published in the *Northampton*, *Stamford*, *Cambridge* and *Ipswich* Journals, and in one of the *Evening Posts* in *London* (so long as such Newspapers shall continue to be published) fourteen Days at least before every such Meeting.

**Provided** always, That no Meeting shall Meetings not be held at any of the said three Places within to be held at the Space of six Days before the twenty-ninth certain Times Day of *August* and the twenty-ninth Day of *September* in any Year; or within the Space of three Days after the said twenty-ninth Day of *August* and twenty-ninth Day of *September*, or during the Time of *Lynn* Mart; or within the Space of three Days before or after the said Mart; or in the Week in the Month of *April* wherein a Meeting of the Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators of the said Corporation of the Great Level of the Fens is held at *Ely*; or in *Whitsun* Week, wherein another Meeting of the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators is held at *London*.

And



The Tolls.

And, for defraying the necessary Expences of putting this Act in Execution, and of carrying on and completing the said Navigations, Be it further enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That at each of the Sluices, called *Stand-ground Sluice*, *Salbourn*, otherwise *Salterns Load Sluice*, and *Old Bedford Sluice*, there shall be paid to the Collector or Collectors, to be appointed as herein after is directed, for the respective Goods following; that is to say, For every Chalder of Coals, *Lynn Measure*; for every Hundred of Battens; for every Half-hundred of other Deals; for every Load of Timber, accounting forty Feet to the Load, *Calliper Measure*; for every eight Packs of Wool, accounting ten Tod to the Pack; for every Weight of Salt; for every Load of Wheat, Rape-feed, Lin-feed, Cole-feed, Barley, Rye, Peas or Beans, accounting five Quarters to the Load; for every Last of Oats, or Barley Big; for every two thousand of Turf; for every Load of Reed, Sedge, Hay, Flax or Hemp, reckoning twenty hundred Weight to the Load; for every Last of Malt; for every thousand of Tiles; for every five hundred of Bricks; for every twenty Feet of Stone; and for every Chalder of Lime; the Sum of three Pence; and the like Sum of three Pence for every Ton Weight of all other Goods, Wares, Merchandizes or Commodities whatsoever; and so in Proportion for any greater or less Quantity or Weight; which said Sums shall and may be demanded and taken in the Name of, or as, a Toll or Duty; and

and shall be paid by every Person who shall carry or convey any Goods through the said Sluices, up or down the said Rivers, Creek or Drains; and the Monies to be received are hereby vested in the said Commissioners, and shall be applied and disposed of for the several Uses and Purposes of this Act, and to no other Use or Purpose whatsoever: And in case of Neglect or Denial of Payment of the said Toll or Duty, on Demand, the said Collector or Collectors are hereby authorized and required to seize and detain any of the said Goods or Commodities, or the Vessels carrying the same; and in case the said Tolls or Duties shall not be paid within three Days after such Seizure, it shall be lawful for the said Collector or Collectors to sell the Goods or Commodities, or the Vessels carrying the same, so seized and detained as aforesaid; rendering the Overplus (if any) to the Owners, after the said Tolls or Duties, together with the reasonable Charges of seizing, detaining and selling the said Goods or Commodities, or Vessels carrying the same, shall be satisfied and paid.

**Provided** always, and be it enacted, That this Act shall not extend to restrain any Person from keeping a Pleasure-boat, for the Purpose of rowing or sailing upon the said Rivers, Creek or Drains, as he or she shall think fit; nor shall any Toll or Duty be demanded upon account of such Pleasure-boat, so as no Goods or Merchandize be carried therein.

**Provided** also, and be further enacted, That Oil-cakes, Malt-dust, Pigeons-dung, and all other Manure and Compost, of any Nature, and Manure, exempted from Toll.

ture or Kind whatsoever, shall have free Passage upon the said Rivers, and through all and each of the said Sluices, without being subject to any Toll or Duty; any Thing in this Act contained to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

Except Linseed  
Oil-cakes.

**Provided** nevertheless, That such Oil-cakes, as are made of Linseed, shall not be deemed Manure within the Meaning of this Act.

Commissioners  
to appoint Col-  
lectors, and  
other Officers.

**And** be it further enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, shall, at their first Meeting, to be held at the Town of *March* aforesaid, have full Power and Authority, by Writing under their Hands and Seals, to nominate and appoint such Person or Persons, as they shall think fit, to be Collector or Collectors of the Tolls and Duties hereby granted; and also such Person, as they shall think fit, to be Treasurer or Receiver of the several Sums of Money arising by such Tolls and Duties, and of all other Monies to be raised, levied and paid by or under the Authority of this Act (such Collector or Collectors giving Bond, with two sufficient Sureties, to the Satisfaction of the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, for the due Payment, to the Treasurer, of all Money to be collected by him or them; and such Treasurer or Receiver also giving Bond, with two sufficient Sureties, to the Satisfaction of the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, in the Penalty of two thousand Pounds, for the due Application of, and accounting

Collectors, and  
Treasurer, to  
give Security.

for, the Monies by him to be received); and shall also administer an Oath to such Collector or Collectors, for the true and faithful executing of his or their Office in or about the Premises: And the said Collector or Collectors shall, upon the first *Monday* in every Month, or oftener, if required by the said Commissioners or any nine or more of them, by Writing under their Hands and Seals, pay, or cause to be paid, into the Hands of the said Treasurer or Receiver, all and every the Sum and Sums of Money, which he or they, the said Collector or Collectors, shall have collected or received, by Virtue of this Act: And the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, shall also, at their first Meeting, as aforesaid, have full Power and Authority, by Writing under their Hands and Seals, to nominate and appoint a Clerk, and Surveyor or Surveyors, for doing all other Matters and Things, which may be necessary to be performed in Execution of this Act: And such Collector or Collectors, Treasurer or Receiver, Clerk, and Surveyor or Surveyors, to be appointed as aforesaid, shall be allowed, out of the Monies to be raised by Virtue of this Act, for their Care and Pains in executing their respective Offices, so much as the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, shall think reasonable; and shall be, from Time to Time, removeable, at the Will and Pleasure of the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, assembled as aforesaid: And all Vacancies which shall happen by Death, Resignation or Removal of any of the said Officers,



Officers, shall be filled up by the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, at the first Meeting to be held after any such Vacancy shall happen; and the Person or Persons so appointed, upon any such Vacancy, shall, unless removed by the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, at some subsequent Meeting, continue in his or their respective Office or Offices until the aforesaid annual Meeting of the said Commissioners upon the third *Thursday* in *August*; at which Time the Commissioners then assembled, or the major Part of them, shall have full Power and Authority either to confirm and continue the Person or Persons, so appointed, in their respective Offices, or to remove and displace them, as they shall think proper, and appoint others in their Stead: And, in case of the Death of any Collector or Collectors, the said Treasurer or Receiver shall have full Power and Authority to appoint such Person or Persons, as he shall think proper, to collect and receive the Tolls and Duties hereby granted, till the next Meeting of the said Commissioners, such Person or Persons giving such Security as aforesaid.

Collectors not  
to be Keepers  
of the Sluices.

**Provided** always, That the Person or Persons to be appointed Collector or Collectors of the said Tolls and Duties, shall not be the same Person or Persons as shall be Keeper or Keepers of any of the Sluices herein before-mentioned.

**Provided**

**provided** also, and it is hereby enacted, **Sluice-keepers** That the Keepers of the said Sluices, called *Standground Sluice, Saltbirn*, otherwise *Salters Load Sluice*, and *Old Bedford Sluice*, shall, to be appointed and paid by the Corporation of Bedford Level. from Time to Time, be appointed and paid by the Corporation of the Great Level of the Fens, called *Bedford Level*, and be under their Direction.

**And**, to the Intent that the Quantity and Quality of such Goods and Commodities, as shall, at any Time, be carried or conveyed up or down the said Rivers, Creek and Drains, may be discovered and known, and that the Tolls by this Act granted may be justly and duly paid, Be it enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That every Waterman or other Person, who shall at any Time carry or convey up or down the said Rivers, Creek or Drains, any Goods, Wares and Merchandizes whatsoever, shall, upon Demand, give to the said Collector or Collectors a just and true Account, Account of Goods carried upon the River to be given to Collectors. according to the best of his Knowledge and Belief, of the Quantity and Quality of all such Goods, Wares and Merchandizes, and of the Name or Names of the respective Owner or Owners thereof; which Account being put into Writing by the said Collector or Collectors, the said Waterman, or other Person, shall subscribe his Name or Mark to the same; and if he shall refuse so to do, or shall deliver Penalty on Refusal. in a false or untrue Account, he shall, for every such Refusal or untrue Account so by him delivered in, forfeit the Sum of forty Shillings, over and above the Tolls or Duties payable for such Goods, Wares or Merchandizes, by

Virtue of this Act; to be recovered by Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattels of the Person so offending, by Warrant under the Hand and Seal of any Justice of the Peace for the County, Liberty or Place where such Offence shall be committed: And in case the Person so offending shall not have sufficient Goods and Chattels, whereupon the said Forfeiture can be levied, it shall be lawful for the said Justice, or any other Justice of the Peace for the said County, Liberty or Place, to commit the Person so offending to the House of Correction, there to remain without Bail for the Space of one Month, unless the said Forfeiture shall be sooner paid.

Commissioners  
impowered to  
borrow Money  
by Assignment  
of the Tolls.

And, to the End that a sufficient Sum of Money may be speedily raised for the Purposes of this Act, Be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Commissioners, or any twenty-five or more of them (eight of them, at least, being Commissioners for the City or Places aforesaid) shall have full Power and Authority, at any Meeting to be held for that Purpose, whereof previous Notice shall be given in manner before directed, fourteen Days at least before the Time of such Meeting, from Time to Time, to borrow any Sum or Sums of Money which they shall think necessary, not exceeding the Sum of three thousand Pounds at any one Meeting, and to convey and assign, by Writing or Writings under their Hands and Seals, the Tolls and Duties granted by this Act, or any Part thereof, to any Person or Persons who shall lend or advance to the said Commissioners any Sum or Sums

Sums of Money; and the Duties so conveyed and assigned, as aforesaid, shall be and are hereby made a Security for the Repayment of the Money so advanced or lent, with legal or less Interest for the same, as shall be agreed upon between the said Commissioners, assembled as aforesaid, or the major Part of them, and the Person or Persons lending or advancing such Money; which said Money, so to be borrowed, shall be applied and disposed of as the said Tolls or Duties, by this Act granted, are directed to be applied and disposed of, and to no other Use or Purpose whatsoever.

And be it further enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That Copies of all and every the Assignment or Assignments, so to be made by the Commissioners as aforesaid, shall be registered or entered at length in a Book or Books to be kept for that Purpose by the said Clerk, or the said Treasurer or Receiver; which said Book or Books shall and may be seen and perused, at all seasonable Times, by any Person or Persons whomsoever, without Fee or Reward.

Assignments to be registered with the Clerk or Treasurer.

And be it further enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That all and every Person or Persons, to whom any Assignment or Assignments of the said Tolls or Duties shall be made as aforesaid, or who shall be intitled to the Money thereby secured, shall and may, from Time to Time, by proper Words of Assignment, to be indorsed on the Back of his, her or their Security, or by any other Writing or Writings under his, her or their Hand and

Securities transferrable by Indorsement.



Seal, or Hands and Seals, to be duly executed in the Presence of two or more credible Witnesses, assign or transfer his, her or their Right, Title, Interest or Benefit to the Principal and Interest-money thereby secured, or any Part thereof, to any Person or Persons whomsoever; which said Transfer or Assignment shall, within three Months after the Date thereof, be produced and notified to the said Clerk, or the said Treasurer or Receiver; who shall cause an Entry or Memorial of such Assignment or Transfer, containing the Date, Parties and Sum of Money therein mentioned to be transferred, to be made in the said Book, to be kept for the entering of the said original Assignments; for which the said Clerk, Treasurer or Receiver shall be paid the Sum of two Shillings and six Pence, and no more: And after such Entry made, such Assignment shall intitle such Assignee, his, her and their Executors, Administrators and Assigns, to the Benefit thereof, and Payment thereon; and such Assignee may, in like Manner, assign again, and so *ties quoties*: and it shall not be in the Power of such Person or Persons, who shall have made such Assignment, to make void, release or discharge the same, or any Monies thereby due, or any Part thereof.

Application  
of the Money  
to be raised.

And be it further enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That if the Sum agreed to be paid by the said Corporation of the Great Level of the Fens, towards defraying the Expences of procuring this Act, shall not be sufficient for that Purpose, the Residue of the said

said Expences shall, in the first Place, be satisfied and paid out of the Money to be raised or collected in Pursuance of this Act; and that after such Expences shall be satisfied and paid as aforesaid, all the Money to be raised or collected, as aforesaid, shall be applied and disposed of in the Payment of such Sums as shall become due and payable by Virtue of this Act; and in scouring, cleansing, widening and deepening the said Creek, called *Well Creek*, from *Saltbirn*, otherwise *Salters Load* aforesaid, to the Town of *Outwell*; and also the River *Nene*, through the said Towns of *Outwell*, *Upwell* and *March*, directly to *Flood's Ferry*, and from thence to *Ramsay High Load* aforesaid; and in preserving and improving in like manner, the Navigation from *Flood's Ferry* through *Whittlesea Dike* to *Standground Sluice* aforesaid; and also in scouring and deepening the *Old Bedford River*, from the *Old Bedford Sluice* to *Welch's Dam*, and the *Forty-foot Drain*, from *Welch's Dam* to the River *Nene*, in the Parish of *Ramsay* aforesaid; and in making, maintaining and securing a free Haling-way, for the better carrying on of the said Navigations, and in repairing the Damages which shall be done to the Banks by haling thereon; and in such other Works, not being prejudicial to the draining of the Country, as the Commissioners assembled, as aforesaid, shall, from Time to Time, order and direct.

**Provided** always, That a distinct and se-Distinct Account shall be kept of the Tolls to be collected at *Salters Load* and *Standground Sluices*, <sup>counts to be kept.</sup>

and of the Tolls to be collected at the *Old Bedford Sluice*; and that the Tolls or Duties to be collected at *Salter's Load Sluice*, and *Standground Sluice*, shall be applied to and laid out in the improving of the Navigation betwixt the said two Sluices, and from *Flood's Ferry*, up the *River Nene*, to *Ramsay High Load* afore said, only, and not in the Improvement of the other Navigation, through the *Old Bedford Sluice*; and that the Tolls or Duties, to be collected at the *Old Bedford Sluice*, shall be applied towards scouring and deepening the *Old Bedford River*, and the *Forty-foot Drain*, to the *River Nene*, as afore said, and to no other Use or Purpose whatsoever.

Twenty-five Commissioners to be present at the borrowing of Money, or ordering of any new Works to be undertaken.

Nine to be a Quorum for other Matters.

**Provided** also, and be it further enacted, That no Money shall be borrowed, nor any new Works ordered to be undertaken, at any Meeting of the said Commissioners, unless previous publick Notice shall have been given thereof, in Manner before directed, fourteen Days at least before such Meeting; nor unless twenty-five of the said Commissioners (whereof eight at least shall be Commissioners for the City or Places afore said) shall be present at such Meeting; but that any nine or more of the said Commissioners (four Commissioners for the City or Places afore said at least being present) assembled as afore said, shall have full Power and Authority to put in Execution all other Matters and Things by this Act directed to be performed by the said Commissioners.

And

And be it further enacted, by the Authority afore-<sup>Commissioners</sup>said, That the said Commissioners, or any twenty-five or more of them, assembled as afore-<sup>to employ, or</sup>said, and not otherwise, shall have full <sup>contract with</sup>Power and Authority to employ, or contract <sup>Persons for im-</sup>with, any Person or Persons, for the Perform-<sup>proving the</sup>ance of any Works they shall think necessary to be done, in Pursuance of this Act, for pre-<sup>Navigation;</sup>serving and improving the said Navigations, or any Part thereof; such Contracts to be for such Time or Times, and under such Conditions, as the said Commissioners, or the major Part of them, assembled as afore-<sup>Navigation;</sup>said, shall think proper: And the Person or Persons employed, or contracted with, as afore-<sup>Navigation;</sup>said, his or their Agents, Servants and Workmen, are hereby authorized and impowered to open, cut, cleanse, scour, deepen, enlarge or straighten the said Rivers, Creek and Drains, or any Part thereof, within the Limits afore-<sup>Navigation;</sup>said, making the same, in all Places where it is possible to be done, thirty Feet wide at the Bottom, forty Feet wide at the Top, and three Feet deeper at the least than any of the adjacent Fen-dikes; and to remove and take away all Trees, Roots of Trees, Dirt, Gravel or Sandbeds, which may hinder or obstruct the said Navigations; and to do and perform all other Matters and Things, not being prejudicial to the draining of the Country, which the Commissioners shall judge necessary or convenient, for improving and maintaining the said Navigations.



but not to erect  
Sluices in cer-  
tain Parts of  
the River, &c.

Sluice at Ash-  
lines Gravel  
not to be raised  
higher than at  
present.

Pen Sluice to  
be made at  
Horsey Bridge.

Haling-ways  
described.

**Provided** nevertheless, That the said Com-  
missioners shall not erect, or cause to be erect-  
ed, any Sluice, Clough, or other Works, in  
or upon the *Old Bedford River* (except the Pen  
Sluice herein after directed to be made at the  
Mouth of the said River) or in or upon the  
said *Forty-foot Drain*, or between the Ford  
called *Ashlines Gravel* and *Salters Load Sluice*  
aforesaid, or between *Flood's Ferry* and *Ramsley*  
*High Load*; and that the Sluice now erected  
above *Ashlines Gravel* aforesaid, shall not be  
raised higher from the Threshold than five  
Feet nine Inches, the present Height of the said  
Sluice.

**And** be it further enacted, by the Authori-  
ty aforesaid, That the said Commissioners shall  
have full Power and Authority to make a Pen  
Sluice, for stopping the Water at *Horsey Bridge*,  
in the County of *Huntingdon*, and to prevent  
the Waters, taken into the River *Nene* at  
*Standground Sluice*, from flowing out of the said  
River, and *Whittlesea Dike* aforesaid; and also  
to make, set out and appoint Towing-paths,  
and Haling-ways upon the Banks of the said  
Creek, called *Well Creek*, and of the said Ri-  
ver *Nene*, from *Saltbirn Load Sluice* to *March*  
*Bridge*; and from thence along the South-east  
Bank of the said River, over *Borough Moor*  
Common, to *Borough Moor* Severals; and  
from thence along the North-west Bank of the  
said River, to *Flood's Ferry* aforesaid; and from  
thence along the South Bank of *Whittlesea Dike*  
to *Angle Bridge*; and from thence along the  
North Bank of the said Dike to *Ashlines Gra-*  
*vel*

vel; and from thence along the South Bank of the said Dike to *Wright's Bridge*; and from thence along the South Bank of the said River *Nene* to *Standground Sluice* aforesaid; and also to set out Haling-ways on the Banks of the River *Nene*, from *Flood's Ferry* to *Ramsey High Load* aforesaid; for towing and drawing, with Men or Horses, Barges, and other Vessels, passing through or upon the said Creek, River and Dike, in such manner as the said Commissioners shall think convenient; first making Satisfaction to the respective Owners or Proprietors of any Lands, Tenements or Hereditaments, which shall be digged, cut, pulled down, or otherwise made use of, for all or any of the Purposes aforesaid, for any Damage such Owners or Proprietors shall or may sustain thereby.

**Provided** always, and be it enacted, That <sup>Nine</sup> Commissioners, any nine or more of the said Commissioners, assembled as aforesaid, in case no greater Number should be present, shall have full Power and Authority to treat with, or receive Proposals from, any Person or Persons who shall be willing to agree or contract for the Performance of any Works, to be done in Pursuance of this Act; but no Agreement or Contract shall be finally made, or entered into, for that Purpose, unless at some Meeting, at which at least twenty-five of the said Commissioners (eight being Commissioners for the City or Places aforesaid) shall be present; and of which the said Commissioners, to whom such Proposals shall have been delivered, shall give fourteen Days Notice at least, in manner before directed, specifying, <sup>but not to contract.</sup> <sup>Commissioners may receive Proposals for any Works to be done;</sup>

fyng, in such Notice, the Occasion and Design of such Meeting.

Commissioners  
impowered to  
purchase Lands  
for the Use of  
the Naviga-  
tion.

**And**, for the better effecting of the Premises, and to the End that the said Navigations may be carried on and preserved in the most effectual Manner, Be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, assembled as aforesaid, shall have full Power and Authority to agree with the Owners or Proprietors of any Lands, Tenements or Hereditaments which they the said Commissioners shall judge necessary to be cut, digged, pulled down or otherwise made use of, for the Purposes of this Act; and also to adjust and settle what Proportion of the Sum, so agreed to be paid, upon Account of such Lands, Tenements or Hereditaments, shall be given to any Tenant, or other Person, having a particular Estate, Term or Interest in any of the Premises: And this Act shall be sufficient to indemnify the said Commissioners, and all Persons employed or authorized by them, against such Owners or Proprietors, their Heirs, Administrators or Assigns, as if such Lands, Tenements or Hereditaments had been sold by Deed of Feoffment, Bargain and Sale, or other Assurance in the Law, done by Fine and Recovery, or any other Way whatsoever.

Bodies Politick and Trustees, impowered to sell.

**And** whereas it may happen, That some Persons, or Bodies Politick, Corporate or Collegiate, Feoffees in Trust, or others, who are seised of some Lands, Tenements or Hereditaments, which may be thought necessary to be

be purchased for the Purposes aforesaid, may be willing to treat and agree for the Sale of such Lands, Tenements or Hereditaments, but, by reason of Infancy, Coverture, or other Disability, may be incapable of selling or conveying the same; Be it therefore further enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall be lawful for all Bodies Politick, Corporate or Collegiate, Corporations Aggregate or Sole, and all Feoffees in Trust, Executors, Administrators, Guardians, or other Trustees for and on Behalf of any Infants, Femmes Covert, or Cestuique Trusts, and all other Persons whomsoever, who are or shall be seised or possessed of, or interested in, any such Lands, Tenements or Hereditaments, to contract and agree with the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, assembled as aforesaid, for the Purchase of such Lands, Tenements or Hereditaments, or of their Interest therein, for the Purposes aforesaid; and to sell and convey the same, as Occasion shall be or require: And all Contracts, Agreements, Sales and Conveyances, which shall be so made, shall be valid, to all Intents and Purposes; any Law, Statute, Usage or other Matter or Thing, whatsoever, to the contrary notwithstanding: And all Feoffees in Trust, Executors, Administrators, Guardians and Trustees, Corporations Collegiate, Aggregate or Sole, and all other Persons, shall be, and they are hereby, indemnified for what they do by Virtue and in Pursuance of this Act.

And



In case of Refusal to treat or agree,

And be it further enacted by the Authority  
aforesaid, That if any Person or Persons, Bodies Politick, Corporate or Collegiate, or other Person or Persons, seised or possessed of, or interested in, any Lands, Tenements or Hereditaments, which may be necessary to be purchased for the Purposes aforesaid, shall, for the Space of ten Days after Notice in Writing to him, her or them given, or left at the Dwelling-house or Place of Abode of such Person or Persons, or of the Head Officer or Officers of such Bodies Politick, Corporate or Collegiate, or at the House of the Tenant in Possession of the said Lands, Tenements or Hereditaments, neglect or refuse to treat, or shall not agree in the Premises, or, by Reason of Absence, shall be prevented from treating; then, and in every or any such Case, the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, assembled as aforesaid, shall be and they are hereby empowered to issue their Warrant or Warrants to the Sheriff of the County, or the High Bailiff of the Isle of *Ely*, for the Time being, respectively, where such Lands, Tenements or Hereditaments shall lie or be situate; who is hereby required to impanel and return before the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, assembled as aforesaid, at such Time and Place as in such Warrant or Warrants shall be appointed, twenty-four substantial and disinterested Persons of the said County, or Isle of *Ely*, respectively, qualified to serve on Juries, to the End that, out of them, a Jury of twelve Men may be sworn, to inquire touching the Matters in question: And in default of a sufficient

a Jury to be summoned,

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sufficient Number of Jurymen appearing at the Time and Place mentioned in such Warrant or Warrants, the said Sheriff, or High Bailiff, or his Deputy respectively, shall return other honest and indifferent Persons, qualified as aforesaid, who can speedily be procured to attend that Service, to make up the Number of twelve: And the said Jury shall, upon their Oaths, to be administered by the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, acting in the Premises (which Oath they are hereby impowered and required to administer) inquire into, assess and award what Recompence and Satisfaction shall be made to the Person or Persons seised or possessed of, or interested in, such Lands, Tenements or Hereditaments, or any Part thereof, for his, her or their respective Estates and Interests in the same: And upon such Verdict, the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, acting in the Premises, shall give Judgment for the Sum or Sums so awarded and assessed, and shall order the same to be paid to the Person or Persons intitled thereto; and such Verdict and Judgment, and Order thereupon, shall be binding and conclusive, to all Intents and Purposes, against the said Parties, and all others claiming, or to claim, in Possession, Reversion, Remainder, or otherwise, their Heirs and Successors, as well absent as present, Infants, Females Covert, and Persons under any other Disability whatsoever, Bodies Politick, Corporate and Collegiate, and all and every other Person and Persons whomsoever; and, being

who shall assess the Recompence to the Parties interested.

put

put into Writing, under the Hands and Seals of the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, shall be delivered to the Clerk of the Peace of the County, Liberty or Place where such Verdict shall have been given, to be kept amongst the Records of the Sessions of such County, Liberty or Place; and the same, or a Copy thereof, shall be admitted as Evidence in all Courts whatsoever: And all and every Person and Persons any way interested in such Lands, Tenements or Hereditaments, shall, from thenceforth be, to all Intents and Purposes, divested of all Right, Title, Claim, Interest or Property in, to, or out of the same.

Commissioners  
impowered to  
summon and  
examine Wit-  
nesses:

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, (That the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, acting in the Premises, shall have full Power and Authority to summon any Witnesses (not being a Peer or Peeres of *Great Britain*) who may be thought proper to be examined, to attend and give Evidence before any Jury, to be impanelled and summoned for the Purposes aforesaid; and also to administer an Oath to, and examine all such Witnesses, or any other Witnesses, who may be produced before such Jury; and shall also order or cause the said Jury to view the Place or Places in question, and use all other lawful Ways and Means, as well for their own as for the better Information of the Jury, in the Premises, as they the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, acting in the Premises, shall think fit; and that all Persons concerned shall have their lawful Challenges against any of the

the said Jurymen, when they come to be sworn :

And the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, acting in the Premises, shall have Power, from Time to Time, to impose any Fine or Fines, not exceeding the Sum of twenty Pounds, upon such Sheriff or High Bailiff, or his Deputy, respectively, making Default in the Premises; and also a Fine, not exceeding five Pounds nor less than forty Shillings, upon any Witness who shall refuse to attend, or be sworn, or to give Evidence; and upon any of the Persons, who, being duly summoned and returned upon any Jury, shall not appear (unless some reasonable Cause of his or their Absence shall be proved, to the Satisfaction of the said Commissioners acting in the Premises) or shall refuse to be sworn on the said Jury, or, being sworn, shall not give his or their Verdict, or shall in any other Manner wilfully neglect his or their Duty in the Premises, contrary to the true Intent and Meaning of this Act : Which Fine or Fines, respectively, shall and may, in Default of Payment thereof, upon Demand, be levied and recovered by Warrant under the Hands and Seals of the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, by Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattels of the Party or Parties offending, or wilfully making Default in the Premises.

And to impose Fines upon the Sheriff, or any Witness or Jurymen, neglecting their Duty.

And be it further enacted, by the Authority Purchase-  
aforesaid, That all and every Sum and Sums of Money, or Recompence, to be agreed for, or assessed and awarded as aforesaid, and also  
money charged upon the Tolls.

the



the Charges attending such Purchase, assessment or Reward, shall be, and is and are hereby charged upon the Tolls by this Act granted, or upon any Money to be borrowed upon the Credit of the said Tolls; and shall be paid thereout accordingly to the Persons respectively intitled thereto, or to their respective Agents; and that, upon Payment or Tender thereof to such Persons, or their Agents, or, in case of their Refusal to accept the same, upon leaving the same in the Hands of the Clerk to the said Commissioners, for the Use of such Persons, the said Commissioners, and all other Persons authorized or employed by them, shall have full Power and Authority to enter upon the said Premises, and to cause such Lands, Tenements or Hereditaments to be cut, digged, pulled down, or otherwise made use of, for the Purposes of the said Navigations; and shall be, and are hereby, indemnified for so doing, against such Persons, their Heirs, Executors, Administrators or Assigns.

Commissioners  
to keep Tow-  
ing-paths in  
repair;

And be it further enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Commissioners shall from Time to Time, and at all Times hereafter, maintain and keep in Repair such Towing-paths or Haling-ways upon the Banks of the said River, Creek and Drain, as shall be made and set out as aforesaid, except such Part thereof as is a publick and common Highway; and also shall, where wanting, set up, and from Time to Time maintain convenient Gates, Passages and Stiles, in or upon the Banks or Lands adjoining to the said River, Creek

and Drain, where any Towing-paths or Hal-  
ling-ways shall be made and set out as afore-  
said: And also, if the said Commissioners, or any Person or Persons authorized by them, as  
aforesaid, shall find it necessary to make any new Cuts or Trenches, by reason whereof the  
Owners or Occupiers of any Lands, Tenements or Hereditaments may not have such conveni-  
ent Access thereto, or Passage from thence, as they before enjoyed; or shall find it necessary  
to deepen the said River so much, in any Part thereof, where there are Fords or Highways  
over the same, that such Fords or Highways may be thereby rendered impassable or dan-  
gerous; then, and in any of the said Cases, the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of  
them, shall first cause a sufficient Bridge or Bridges to be erected where such new Cuts or  
Trenches shall be intended to be made, and where such Fords or Highways now are; and  
shall, from Time to Time, maintain and keep the said Bridges in Repair, for the Convenience  
and Accommodation of all Persons having Occasion to pass over the same.

**Provided** always, and it is hereby fur-  
ther enacted, That if any Part of the Banks  
of the said Rivers, Creek or Drains, which,  
by this Act, are to be kept in Repair by the  
said Commissioners, shall at any Time be  
broke down, it shall and may be lawful for the  
Owner or Occupier of the Lands, where such  
Breach shall happen, to cause the same imme-  
diately to be repaired; such Owner or Occu-  
pier giving Notice directly to some Officer of  
the

Owners of  
Lands repair  
the Banks, in  
case of a  
Breach;

or in case of  
Danger of a  
Breach, if the  
Commissioners  
neglect to re-  
pair them.

the said Commissioners, that such Breach has happened; or if any Part of the Banks of the said Rivers, Creek or Drains shall be in Danger of a Breach, and Notice of such Danger shall be given, in Writing, to any of the Agents or Servants of the said Commissioners, by the Owners or Occupiers of the Lands lying against such Banks, and the Agents or Servants of the said Commissioners shall neglect to repair the same for the Space of four Days, that then it shall and may be lawful for the Owners or Occupiers of the Lands where Danger of such Breach shall be, to cause the said Banks to be repaired; and, in either of the Cases aforesaid, the Monies expended thereon shall, upon Demand, be reimbursed to such Owner or Occupier out of the Tolls to be collected by Virtue of this Act.

Corporation of  
Bedford Level  
to erect Ebb-  
doors at *Salters  
Load* and *Old  
Bedford*;

and to keep  
Slukes in  
repair.

Commissioners  
to erect a Pair  
of Gates at  
*Old Bedford*;

And be it further enacted, That the Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Company of Conservators of the said Great Level, shall, at their own Expence, cause to be erected a Pair of Ebb-doors at *Salters Load Sluice*, and also another Pair of Ebb-doors at *Old Bedford Sluice* aforesaid, which respective Doors shall be seven Feet three Inches high; and that the said Doors, and also the said Sluices at *Standground*, *Saltbarn* otherwise *Salters Load*, and *Old Bedford*, shall remain under the Care and Management of, and, from Time to Time, be kept in Repair by, the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty.

Provided always, That the said Commissioners, appointed by or in Pursuance of this Act, shall cause a Pair of Gates to be erected

at



at the Mouth of *Old Bedford River* aforesaid, in order to the making of a Pen-sluice there; and shall also pay into the Hands of the Receiver to the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty, the Sum of fifteen Pounds annually, out of the Tolls to be collected at *Old Bedford Sluice* aforesaid, and also the Sum of thirty Pounds annually, out of the Tolls to be collected at *Standground* and *Saltbarn* otherwise *Salter's Load Sluices* aforesaid, by Virtue of this Act, in order to defray the Expences of erecting, altering and keeping in Repair the said Ebb-doors and Sluices: And also that it shall be lawful for the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty, with the Money arising from their own Taxes and Revenues, from Time to Time, to cleanse, deepen and scour out any Part or Parts of the *Old Bedford River* and the *Forty-foot Drain*, and to strengthen and repair any Part or Parts of the Banks of the said Rivers, Creek and Drains, without any Lett or Obstruction from the Commissioners appointed by or in Pursuance of this Act.

who may  
cleanse the Ri-  
vers, and re-  
pair the Banks,  
at their own  
Expence.

**Provided** also, That if at any Time the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty shall not keep the said Ebb-doors or Sluices in Repair, and shall neglect to repair the same for the Space of ten Days after Notice, in Writing, shall have been given by the Surveyor, appointed by the said Commissioners, to the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty, or to any of the Keepers of the said Sluices, that such Repairs are necessary, it shall be lawful for the said Commissioners, or any Person or Persons

Commissioners  
to repair the  
Sluices, if the  
Corporation  
neglect, upon  
Notice;



and to be re-  
imburfed.

authorized by them as aforefaid, to caufe the faid Ebb-doors or Sluices to be repaired; and the Money expended in fuch Repairs fhall and may be deducted out of the refpective annual Sums, or either of them, herein before directed to be paid by the faid Commissioners to the faid Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty.

Navigation to  
be under the  
fole Power of  
the Commiffi-  
oners.

**Provided** alfo, and it is hereby further enacted, That the Improvement and Prefervation of the faid Navigations, and the feveral Works already erected or to be erected, and every other Matter and Thing hereby directed to be done for that Purpose (except as herein before is excepted) fhall be wholly under the Management, Direction and Controul of the faid Commissioners, and fhall not be under the Survey or Orders, nor fubject to the Controul, of the faid Corporation of the Great Level of the Fens, except only in thofe Cafes wherein the faid Corporation fhall proceed by Prefentment, and a Jury, as Commissioners of Sewers; any Law or Statute to the contrary in any wife notwithstanding: And that the Money, to be raifed by Virtue of this Act, fhall be applied and difpofed of in fuch Manner as the faid Commissioners fhall, from Time to Time, order and appoint, and as herein before is directed concerning the fame, and in no other Manner whatfoever.

Proviso con-  
cerning the  
Tongs  
Drain.

**Provided** alfo, and be it further enacted, That the Drain called *Marfbland Cut*, or the *Tongs Drain*, fhall not at any Time be run, unlefs upon a Breach of Bank, or in cafe of imminent Danger thereof, or unlefs the Wa-  
ter

ter in the said Rivers be raised more than one Foot above the level Soil of the lowest Lands in the Fens, nor, in any of the said Cases, without an Order in Writing signed by ten of the said Commissioners; whereof five to be Commissioners for the said Corporation of the Great Level of the Fens, or for the Borough of *King's Lynn*; and the other five to be Commissioners for the City of *Peterborough*, or the Places aforesaid.

And be it further enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That where any Tunnel shall be made for taking Water out of the said Rivers, Creek or Drains, into the Fens or low Grounds, the Bottom of such Tunnel shall not at any Time be laid more than two Feet lower than the Surface of the adjacent Lands; and that, where any Tunnel shall be laid, for taking any Water out of the said Rivers, Creek or Drains into the high Lands, the Bottom of such Tunnel shall at all Times be laid upon the same Level with those in the low or Fen Grounds; to the end that such a Quantity of Water may at all Times be kept in the said River, as the Commissioners, or their Agents, shall think proper; and that the same may be constantly maintained of a sufficient Depth for the Use of the said Navigations: And if any Person shall offend in the Premises, by laying the Bottom of any Tunnel lower than herein before is limited and prescribed, and shall be lawfully convicted thereof, before any Justice of the Peace of the County or Place where such Offence shall be committed, he or she so offending shall for every such Offence forfeit,

Tunnels not  
to be laid above  
a certain  
Depth.

Penalty for  
offending  
therein.

to the Use of the Person giving Information thereof, the Sum of five Pounds, to be recovered by Distress and Sale of the Offender's Goods and Chattels, by Warrant under the Hand and Seal of the Justice, before whom he or she shall be convicted as aforesaid.

Tunnels laid lower than limited, to be taken up.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall be lawful for the Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, assembled as aforesaid, to cause any Tunnel, which is or shall be laid lower than herein before is limited, to be taken up, or otherwise stopped, in such manner as they shall think most proper.

Commissioners to make Orders for improving the Navigations, and regulating Watermen, &c.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, shall have full Power and Authority, at any of their Meetings as aforesaid, from Time to Time, to make such Orders and Decrees for improving and preserving the said Navigations, in Pursuance of this Act, and for regulating the Manner of haling upon the Banks of the said Rivers, Creek and Drains, and for the well governing of the Watermen and Boatmen using the said Navigations, as they the said Commissioners shall think proper and convenient.

Owners of Boats, &c. to make Satisfaction for Damages.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That every Boatmaster, and Owner of any Boat, Lighter or other Vessel, which shall pass up or down the said Rivers, Creek or Drains, shall be and is hereby made answerable, and shall make Satisfaction, for any Damage or Mischief which shall be done by his or her Boat, Lighter or other Vessel, or by any

any of the Crew thereof, to any of the Weirs, Locks, Dams, Sluices, or other Works, erected, or to be erected or maintained, by Authority of this Act; and also for any Damage or Trespass which shall be done or committed by his or her Boat, Lighter or other Vessel, or by his or her Horses or Servants, to or upon any Banks, Lands or Tenements adjoining to the said Rivers, Creek or Drains; which Satisfaction shall and may be sued for, and recovered, with full Costs of Suit, by Action of Trespass, or on the Case, in any Court of Record.

**And**, for preventing Damages, Mischiefs and Trespasses, which may be done or committed by rude and disorderly Persons, Be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Waterman, or other Person, having the Care and Management of any Boat or other Vessel, shall lay such Boat or Vessel so as to obstruct the Passage of other Boats or Vessels, or hinder the opening or shutting of any of the said Locks or Sluices, and shall not, when required, immediately remove the same; or if any Person shall throw any Dirt, Gravel, Soil, or other Annoyance, into the Waters, within the Limits of the said Navigations; or shall wilfully offend against any Order or Decree made by the said Commissioners, as aforesaid; such Waterman, or other Person, so offending, shall and may, by the Authority of this Act, and without any other Warrant, be apprehended by the Constable of the Parish or Place where such Offender shall be found, and carried before any Justice of the Peace for the same County or Place; who, upon Proof of

Penalty on  
Persons causing  
any Annoy-  
ance to the  
Navigation,  
or offending  
against any  
Order of the  
Commissioners.



the Complaint, by the Oath of one or more credible Witness or Witnesses (which Oath the said Justice is hereby impowered and required to administer) or by the Confession of the Party accused, shall impose such Fine upon the Offender, as the said Justice shall think reasonable, not exceeding five Pounds nor less than twenty Shillings; to be levied by Distress and Sale of such Boat or Vessel, or of any of the Goods and Chattels of the Offender, by Warrant under the Hand and Seal of such Justice; and, for want of sufficient Distress, such Offender shall, by like Warrant, be committed to the House of Correction; there to be kept to hard Labour for any Time not exceeding three Months, nor less than one Month, at the Discretion of such Justice.

Persons ag-  
grieved by  
Order of any  
Justice to ap-  
peal to Quar-  
ter-Sessions:

**Provided** always, and be it enacted, That if any Person shall think himself aggrieved by the Order or Judgment of any Justice of the Peace, upon Account of any Offence against this Act, such Person shall have Liberty to appeal to the Justices at the next General or Quarter Session to be held for the County or Place, wherein such Order or Judgment shall have been made or given; the Person so appealing giving Security, to the Satisfaction of the said Justice, to prosecute such Appeal with Effect, and to pay the Costs, which shall be ascertained by the said General or Quarter Session, in case such Order or Judgment shall be affirmed: And the Justices in the said General or Quarter Session are hereby authorized and required to hear and determine the said Appeal, and to make such Order therein, as to  
them

them shall appear just; which Order shall be final and conclusive to all Parties; and shall not be removable by Writ of *Certiorari*, or otherwise, into any of his Majesty's Courts of Record at *Westminster* or elsewhere. Whose Order is to be final.

**Provided** nevertheless, That no Order or Proceedings Judgment of any Justice of the Peace shall be quashed or vacated for want of Form not to be quashed for want of Form. only.

**And** be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the respective Penalties and Forfeitures by this Act inflicted (the Application whereof is not herein particularly directed) shall be paid into the Hands of the Treasurer or Receiver of the Monies, to be raised by Virtue of this Act; and shall be applied and disposed of for the Use of the said Navigations, and to no other Use or Purpose whatsoever. Application of the Forfeitures.

**And** for preventing the breaking down or damaging any of the Works, which shall be erected or made in Pursuance of this Act, Clause to prevent the breaking down of the Banks. Be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person or Persons shall wilfully and maliciously cut, break down, damage or destroy any Banks, or other Works, erected or made for the Purposes aforesaid, such Person or Persons shall be adjudged guilty of Felony; and shall be subject and liable to the like Pains and Penalties, as in case of Felony: And the Courts, by and before whom such Person or Persons shall be tried, shall have full Power and Authority to transport such Felons for the Space of seven Years, in like Manner as other Felons are directed to be transported by the Laws and Statutes of this Realm.

**And**

Commissioners  
impowered to  
lessen the Tolls;  
and raise the  
same again, if  
they think fit.

And be it further enacted by the Authority  
aforesaid, That the said Commissioners, or any  
twenty-five or more of them, assembled at  
their annual Meeting aforesaid, upon the third  
*Thursday* in *August*, shall have full Power and  
Authority from Time to Time, to lessen or  
reduce the Tolls by this Act granted, if they  
the said Commissioners shall think proper;  
and also to raise and augment the same again,  
as they the said Commissioners, or any twenty-  
five or more of them, assembled at their an-  
nual Meeting as aforesaid, or the major Part  
of them so assembled, shall judge necessary;  
so as no greater Tolls be, at any Time, de-  
manded or taken, than are by this Act granted  
and made payable.

Treasurer and  
Collectors to  
account.

And to the End that the said Commissioners  
may, from Time to Time, be enabled to de-  
termine what Tolls or Duties may be necessary  
to be raised for the Purposes of this Act, and  
that the respective Sums of Money to be col-  
lected, levied and borrowed, by Virtue there-  
of, may be duly accounted for, Be it further  
enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the  
Treasurer or Receiver to be appointed as here-  
in before is directed, shall fairly set down and  
enter in one or more Book or Books to be kept  
for that Purpose, an Account of all Monies by  
him received and disbursed, in Pursuance of  
this Act; specifying, in the said Account, the  
Times when, and the Persons from and to  
whom such Monies were received or disbursed,  
and for what Uses and Purposes; which Book  
or Books, or a true Copy thereof, signed by  
the said Treasurer or Receiver, shall be deli-  
vered



vered to the said Commissioners, at their annual Meeting aforesaid, upon the third *Thursday* in *August*, and also at such other Meetings as the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, shall require the same; and the said Treasurer or Receiver shall also verify the said Book or Books, upon Oath, if thereunto required by the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, assembled as aforesaid; who are hereby impowered to administer such Oath, and also to discharge such Treasurer or Receiver of all such Monies as he shall have fairly and truly accounted for, as aforesaid: And the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, shall also, at their annual Meeting as aforesaid, and at such other Meetings as they shall think proper, summon before them, and, if they think fit, examine upon Oath (which Oath the said Commissioners are hereby impowered to administer) the Collector or Collectors, Clerk, Surveyor or Surveyors, and Persons employed in or entrusted with the Receipt or Expenditure of all or any of the Monies to be raised by Virtue of this Act; which Collector or Collectors, Clerk, Surveyor or Surveyors, and Persons employed or entrusted as aforesaid, are hereby required to render to the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, assembled as aforesaid, a true, exact and perfect Account, in Writing, of all and every the Sum and Sums of Money so by them respectively received or expended as aforesaid: And in case the said Treasurer or Receiver, Collector or Collectors, Clerk, or any other Officer or Person employed or entrusted as aforesaid, shall be found



found in Arrear, or refuse to account, or to pay the Money due upon the Balance of such Account, according to the Orders and Directions of the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, assembled as aforesaid, it shall be lawful for the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, assembled as aforesaid, by Warrant or Warrants under their Hands and Seals, to levy, by Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattels of the Person or Persons so found in Arrear, or refusing to Account, or to pay the Money due upon the Balance of such Account, such Sum or Sums of Money, as he or they shall be required to account for, or as shall be found due upon the Balance of his or their Account; and, for want of sufficient Distress, it shall be lawful for the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, by like Warrant or Warrants under their Hands and Seals, to commit such Person or Persons to the common Gaol of the County, City or Place where the said Commissioners shall be then assembled, there to remain without Bail, until he or they shall have made a true Account and Payment as aforesaid.

Limitation of  
Actions.

General Issue.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Action, Suit or Information shall be commenced or prosecuted against any Person, for any Thing done in Pursuance or Execution of this Act, the Person sued shall and may plead the General Issue; and, upon any Issue joined, may give this Act and the Special Matter in Evidence; and if, in any such Suit, the Plaintiff or Prosecutor shall become nonsuit, or forbear Prosecution, or suffer a Discontinuance; or if a Verdict shall pass against

against him, or Judgment be given against him, upon a Demurrer; then, in any of the said Cases, the Defendant shall recover treble Costs, and have the like Remedy for the same, as any Defendant or Defendants hath or have for Costs of Suit, in any other Cases, by Law. Treble Costs.

**Provided** always, and be it enacted, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to invalidate, lessen, diminish, alter, or take away, any of the Rights, Powers or Authorities which, by an Act made in the fifteenth Year of the Reign of King Charles the second (intituled, *An Act for settling the draining of the Great Level of the Fens, called Bedford Level*) or by any other Act, Statute or otherwise, are vested in the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty; except such Rights, Powers or Authorities as are by this Act altered or taken away; or to invalidate, lessen, diminish, alter or take away any of the the Rights, Powers or Authorities of the said Corporation of the Great Level of the Fens, called *Bedford Level*, as Commissioners of Sewers, acting by Presentment, and Trial by a Jury. Rights of the Corporation of Bedford Level saved.

**And** be it further enacted by the Authority Publick Act. aforesaid, That this Act shall be taken and allowed in all Courts within this Kingdom as a Publick Act; and shall be judicially taken Notice of as such by all Judges, Justices, and other Persons, without specially pleading the same.

*[Faint, illegible handwriting]*

I have no objection to the use of the name of the  
 company in any manner, but I do not wish to be  
 understood as endorsing the same. I am, Sir,  
 very respectfully,  
 Yours,  
 J. H. B.

[illegible]

our sovereign Lord God in the

Secondly, by the fact of the

---

Anno Regni  
**G E O R G I I    I I.**  
**R E G I S**

*Magnæ Britanniae, Franciæ & Hiberniæ,*  
V I C E S I M O   N O N O.

At the Parliament begun and holden  
at *Westminster* the thirty-first Day of  
*May Anno Dom. 1754*, in the  
twenty-seventh Year of the Reign of  
our Sovereign Lord *GEORGE* the  
Second, by the Grace of God, of  
*Great Britain, France and Ireland*  
King, Defender of the Faith, &c.

And from thence continued, by several Proro-  
gations to, the thirteenth Day of *November*  
1755, being the third Session of this present  
Parliament.

---



Anno Regni

GEORGE II.

REGIS

Magnae Britanniae, Franciae & Hiberniae,

VICESIMO NONO.

As the Parliament begun and holden  
at Westminster the thirty-first Day of  
May Anno Dom. 1744, in the  
twenty-seventh Year of the Reign of  
our Sovereign Lord GEORGE the  
second, by the Grace of God, of  
Great Britain, France and Ireland  
King, Defender of the Faith, &c.

And from thence continued, by several Pro-  
clamations to the thirtieth Day of November  
1744, being the third Session of this present  
Parliament.

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Anno vicefimo nono

GEORGE II. Regis.

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AN Act for establishing a Fund for Payment of the Bonds of the Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Company of Conservators of the Great Level of the Fens, called *Bedford Level*; and for exchanging the present Bonds of the said Corporation for other Bonds, payable out of the Revenues of the Middle and South Levels, Part of the said Great Level; and for enabling the said Corporation to borrow further Sums, for the Use of the said Great Level.

M m

WHEREAS

Preamble, re-  
citing Clauses  
in Act 15 Car.  
II. for drain-  
ing Bedford  
Level.

**W**HEREAS by an Act of Parliament made in the fifteenth Year of the Reign of King Charles the Second, intituled, *An Act for settling the Draining of the Great Level of the Fens, called Bedford Level*, taking Notice that *Francis* Earl of *Bedford*, according to a Law of Sewers, made at *King's Lynn* in the sixth Year of the Reign of King *Charles* the First, had undertaken the Draining of the said Great Level, situate within the Counties of *Northampton*, *Norfolk*, *Suffolk*, *Lincoln*, *Cambridge* and *Huntingdon*, and the Isle of *Ely*, and bounded as in the said Act is particularly mentioned and described; and that he, the said Earl, was to have for his Recompence ninety-five thousand Aeres of the Grounds within the said Level, with convenient Highways and Passages to the same; and that *William* Earl of *Bedford*, Son and Heir of the said Earl *Francis*, with divers of his Adventurers and Participants, had proceeded in the completing and finishing of the said Works; but that the same could not be preserved without constant Care, great Charge and orderly Government; it was therefore, amongst other Things, enacted, That the said *William* Earl of *Bedford*, and the Adventurers and Participants of the said Earl *Francis* and Earl *William*, or either of them, their Heirs and Assigns, in such Manner as in the said Act is contained, should be a Body Politick and Corporate, in Deed and Name, and have Succession for ever, by the Name of *The Governor, Bailiffs and Com-*

*Commonalty of the Company of Conservators of the Great Level of the Fens*; with Power to lay Taxes upon the said ninety-five thousand Acres only (twelve thousand Acres whereof had been designed and intended for his late Majesty King *Charles* the First, and had been set forth and allotted by Bounds in Severalty) for the Support, Maintenance and Preservation of the said Great Level, and to levy the same with Penalties for Non-payment, and to do all other Things in order to the Support, Maintenance and Preservation of the said Great Level and Works made and to be made, in such manner as in the said Act is mentioned: And whereas by another Act made in the twentieth Year of the Reign of King *Charles* the Second, intituled, *An Act for the taxing and assessing of the Lands of the Adventurers within the Great Level of the Fens*, it was enacted, That eighty-three thousand Acres, Parcel of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, should, from Time to Time, be taxed and assessed by a gradual Acre-tax, of different Sorts and Values of Lands; and that the said twelve thousand Acres, Residue of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, should be taxed at a Medium of the whole Tax, to be from Time to Time assessed upon the said ninety-five thousand Acres: And to the End that the said eighty-three thousand Acres might be more equally taxed by a gradual Tax, certain Persons in the same Act named, were appointed Surveyors and Valuers of the said eighty-three thousand Acres; and were, within the Time limited by the Act, to digest the said eighty-three thousand

20 Car. II.



nd Acres into a Number of Sorts and Degrees, not under the Number of seven Sorts and Degrees, and to rate and tax such Degrees, and digest the same into Schedules in Writing, and make Returns thereof, upon their Oaths, into the Fen Office, in such manner as by the said Act is prescribed: And whereas by Valuations made by the several Persons appointed by the said Act of the twentieth of King *Charles* the Second, and duly returned into the Office of the said Corporation in *London*, the said eighty-three thousand Acres were set out and digested into eleven different Sorts and Degrees of Land, and the several Sums to be rated and assessed upon each of the said Sorts and Degrees, as their respective Proportions of the Taxes to be paid to the said Corporation, were by the said Valuations settled and limited; and the said eighty-three thousand Acres have always since been taxed by a gradual Acre-tax, according to the Degrees and Proportions so set out and allotted, and the said twelve thousand Acres at a Medium of such Tax; a single Tax upon the said eighty-three thousand Acres, together with the Produce of a proportionable Tax upon the said twelve thousand Acres, amounting to the Sum of five thousand and fifty-one Pounds seven Shillings and two Pence: And whereas by another Act made in the twenty-seventh Year of the Reign of his present Majesty, intituled, *An Act for discharging the Corporation of the Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Company of Conservators of the Great Level of the Fens, commonly called Bedford Level, from a Debt due to the Duke*

*Duke of Bedford and Earl of Lincoln; and for enabling the Proprietors of Lands in the North Level, Part of the said Great Level, to raise Money to discharge the Proportion of the said North Level in the Debts of the said Corporation; and for ascertaining and appropriating the Taxes to be laid on the said North Level; and for the more effectual draining and preserving the said North Level, and divers Lands adjoining thereto, in the Manor of Crowland; taking Notice (amongst other Things) that at a Court of the said Corporation, held the tenth Day of March one thousand six hundred and ninety-seven, the said Corporation declared, that the said Great Level should be distinguished by the several Names of the North Level, Middle Level and South Level; and also taking Notice that the said Corporation, in order to support and preserve the several Works for draining the said Great Level, had been obliged to borrow Money, and contract Debts, amounting in the whole to the Sum of forty-nine thousand one hundred and fifty-three Pounds eleven Shillings and nine Pence; it was, amongst other Things, enacted, That the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Company of Conservators of the said Great Level of the Fens, and their Successors and all and every the Lands, Taxes, Rents and Revenues of the said Corporation, should be absolutely discharged from the Sum of eighteen thousand nine hundred and thirteen Pounds eleven Shillings and nine Pence (Part of the said Debt of forty-nine thousand one hundred and fifty-three Pounds eleven Shillings*

M m 3

lings and nine Pence) due and owing to the most Noble *John Duke of Bedford*, and the Right Honourable *Henry Earl of Lincoln*, who are the Owners of the greatest Part of the Lands lying within the said North Level; and that the Sum of one thousand eight hundred Pounds, to be raised from the taxable Lands lying within the said North Level, in the manner by the said Act directed, should, when raised, be applied in Discharge of the Proportion of the said North Level of and in the Residue of the said Debt of forty-nine thousand one hundred fifty-three Pounds eleven Shillings and nine Pence; And it was by the said last-mentioned Act also further enacted and declared, That the Taxes chargeable by Virtue of the said Acts of the fifteenth and twentieth Years of King *Charles the Second*, upon the Taxable Lands within the said North Level, should be always thereafter fixed and settled upon so much thereof as shall be Part of the said eighty-three thousand Acres, at a Tax and a Quarter, and on so much thereof as shall be Part of the said twelve thousand Acres, in Proportion thereto, according to the said Act of the twentieth of King *Charles the Second*, and should not be lessened or increased under any Pretence whatsoever; and that all the Money which should arise or be produced by the said Taxes, within the said North Level and all other the Rents and Revenues arising and payable to the said Corporation, by, from or out of the said North Level, or any Part thereof, should from thenceforth be applied and disposed of by the said Governor, Bailiffs



Bailiffs and Commonalty, and their Successors, in and about the several Banks and Works of the said North Level, in the said Act particularly mentioned, and to and for no other Purpose whatsoever; and that the said North Level, and all and singular the Lands, Tenements, Rents, Taxes and Revenues thereof should be freed, exonerated and discharged of and from the Residue of the said Debt of forty-nine thousand one hundred and fifty-three Pounds eleven Shillings and nine Pence, and all Interest, payable for and in Respect thereof; and that the said North Level, or the Lands, Tenements, Rents, Revenues and Taxes thereof, or of any Part thereof, should not be subject or liable to the Payment of any Debt, or Sum or Sums of Money, which should at any Time thereafter be contracted, taken up or borrowed by the said Corporation, for or on Account of the said Middle or South Levels, or either of them; and also that the said Middle and South Levels, or either of them, or the Lands, Tenements, Rents, Revenues and Taxes of them, or either of them, should not be subject or liable to the Payment of any Debt, or Sum or Sums of Money whatsoever, which should at any Time thereafter be contracted, taken up or borrowed by the said Corporation, on Account of the said North Level: And whereas the said Sum of one thousand eight hundred Pounds has been raised and applied in Pursuance of the said Act of the twenty-seventh Year of his present Majesty's Reign; and the said Corporation have also, since the making of the said last-mentioned Act,



paid off the Sum of one thousand Pounds, in further Part of the said Debt of forty-nine thousand one hundred and fifty-three Pounds eleven Shillings and nine Pence, over and besides the said Sum of one thousand eight hundred Pounds raised and applied as aforesaid; whereby the Debt of the said Corporation is reduced to the Sum of twenty-seven thousand four hundred and forty-Pounds: And whereas the said Debt of twenty-seven thousand four hundred and forty Pounds is secured by Bonds, under the Seal of the said Corporation, who have thereby bound and obliged themselves to pay the several Sums mentioned in the said respective Bonds; and inasmuch as the said Sum of twenty-seven thousand four hundred and forty Pounds is, by the said Act of the twenty-seventh Year of his present Majesty, become a Charge upon the said Middle and South Levels only, it is become necessary to exchange the Bonds for securing the said Debt, and to mention in the new Bonds, to be given for that Purpose, that the Money so to be secured, is due from the said Middle and South Levels only: And whereas Doubts have arisen amongst the Creditors of the said Corporation, concerning the Securities they now have for their respective Debts, by reason that the said Corporation have it in their Power, under the before-mentioned Acts of the fifteenth and twentieth of King *Charles* the Second, either to tax such Parts of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, as lie within the said Middle and South Levels, with very small Taxes, or not to tax the same at all, whereby the fund for  
the

the Payment of the Debts, due to the said Creditors, may become deficient: And whereas the said Corporation may have Occasion to borrow further Sums of Money for the Support and Preservation of the said Great Level; and it will be necessary to distinguish in all future Bonds, to be entered into by the said Corporation, whether the Money borrowed upon such Bonds be for or on Account of the said Middle and South Levels, or for or on Account of the said North Level: To the End therefore that a sufficient Fund may be at all Times hereafter raised and secured for Payment of the Bonds of the said Corporation; and that the Bonds given by the said Corporation for the said Sum of twenty-seven thousand four hundred and forty Pounds, may be exchanged as aforesaid; and that the said Corporation may be enabled to borrow such further Sums as shall be necessary for the Support and Preservation of the said Great Level; and that distinct Bonds may be given for the Money which shall be so borrowed upon Account of the said Middle and South Levels, and upon Account of the said North Level; be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That during such Time as any Debt or Sum of Money shall be due and owing from or upon Account of the said Middle and South Levels, all such Parts of the said eighty-three thousand Acres as lie within the said Levels, or either of them, shall yearly and every

A single Tax to be laid upon the Middle and South Levels, during the Continuance of any Debt thereon.

every Year be, and the same are, hereby rated, taxed, charged and assessed by and with a single gradual Acre-tax; and such Parts of the said twelve thousand Acres as lie within the said Middle or South Levels, with a Medium of such single gradual Acre-tax, according to the said Act of the twentieth of King *Charles* the Second, and the Valuations made in Pursuance thereof.

Corporation  
impowered to  
lay a farther  
Tax, if neces-  
sary.

**Provided** always, That it shall be lawful for the Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators of the said Corporation, from Time to Time, to rate, tax, charge or assess all such Parts of the said eighty-three thousand Acres, and twelve thousand Acres, as lie within the said Middle or South Levels, with any farther Tax which they, the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators, shall judge necessary, in the same Manner as they might have done before the making of this Act.

New Bonds  
to be given in  
lieu of the  
Bonds for the  
present Debt.

**And** be it further enacted, That in lieu of the Bonds heretofore given by the said Corporation, for securing the Payment of the said Debt of twenty-seven thousand four hundred and forty Pounds, the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators, or any five or more of them, whereof the said Governor or Bailiffs, or any of them, to be two, shall give other Bonds under the Common Seal of the said Corporation, for the respective Sums due to the Person or Persons possessed of such Bonds, mentioning in the Bonds so to be given, that the Money secured thereby is due and owing upon Account of the said Middle and South Levels; and all and singular the Rents, Taxes and Re-

venues



venues of the said Middle and South Levels shall be, and they are hereby declared to be, a Security for, and shall be charged and chargeable with, the Payment of the Sums mentioned in such Bonds, and all Interest due, and to become due thereupon.

And to the End that the said Corporation may be at all Times enabled to raise such Sums of Money as shall be necessary for the Support and Preservation of the said Great Level, and for defraying the other necessary expences attending the same; be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators, or any seven or more of them, whereof the said Governor, or Bailiffs, or any of them, to be two, with the Consent of the Duke of *Bedford*, his Heirs or Assigns, Lord or Lords, Lady or Ladies, of the Manor of *Thorney*, and of the Earl of *Lincoln*, his Heirs or Assigns, Owner or Owners of *Highb and Low Borough Fen*, from Time to Time, to borrow upon Bonds, under the common Seal of the said Corporation, such Sum or Sums of Money as they, the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators, or any seven or more of them as aforesaid, shall judge necessary for the Use of the said North Level, not exceeding in the whole the Sum of five thousand Pounds; declaring in such Bonds, that the Money secured thereby, is due and owing upon Account of the said North Level; and also any Sum or Sums of Money which they the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators, or any seven or more of them as aforesaid, shall judge necessary for the Use of the said Middle and South Levels, or

Corporation  
impowered to  
borrow for the  
Use of the  
North Level,  
not exceeding  
5000l.  
  
and any Sum  
for the Middle  
and South Le-  
vels, so as the  
whole Debt do  
not exceed  
either 32,000l.



either of them, so as by the borrowing of such Sum or Sums the Debt of the said Corporation, upon Account of the said Middle and South Levels, be not at any Time made to exceed, in the whole, the Sum of thirty-two thousand Pounds; declaring in the Bonds to be given for such Sum or Sums, that the Money secured thereby is due and owing upon Account of the said Middle and South Levels; And the respective Rents, Taxes and Revenues of the said North Level, and of the said Middle and South Levels, shall be, and they are hereby made a Security for Repayment of the Sums so respectively to be borrowed, with legal or less Interest for the same, as shall be agreed upon between the said Corporation and the Person or Persons lending such Money; but no Money, to be borrowed upon Account of the said North Level, shall be charged or chargeable upon any of the Rents, Taxes or Revenues of the said Middle and South Levels; nor shall any Money, to be borrowed on Account of the said Middle and South Levels, be charged or chargeable upon any of the Rents, Taxes or Revenues of the said North Level, or any Part thereof.

Money borrowed for the North Level, not to be chargeable on the Middle and South Levels; and *vice versa*.

Bonds to be numbered; and none to be given for more than 100 l.

**Provided** always, and be it enacted, That all Bonds to be hereafter given by the said Corporation, shall be numbered, beginning with Number One, and so proceeding in Arithmetical Progression; and that no Bond shall be given for any greater or less Sum than one hundred Pounds.

And

And be it further enacted, That all Bonds to be trans-  
 to be given by the said Corporation, shall be ferrable with-  
 transferrable or assignable by Indorsement upon out Stamps.  
 the original Bond, without Stamps, to any  
 Person or Persons whomsoever; and such Assignments  
 Transfer or Assignment being produced to the to be entered  
 Register of the said Corporation, and by him by the Register  
 entered in a Book to be kept for that Purpose, of the Corpo-  
 (which Entry the said Register is hereby re- ration.  
 quired to make upon Request, the Person pro-  
 ducing such Transfer or Assignment, paying  
 the Sum of two Shillings and six Pence for  
 every such Entry) shall intitle the Person or  
 Persons to whom such Transfer or Assignment  
 shall be made, his, her or their Executors,  
 Administrators or Assigns, to the Money se-  
 cured by such Bond, and all Interest due or to  
 grow due thereupon: And such Assignee or As-  
 signees may, in like Manner, by Indorsement  
 without Stamp, assign and transfer such Bond or  
 Bonds so assigned as aforesaid; and so *toties quo-*  
*ties*, as Occasion shall require; every such As-  
 signment being entered in such Book as aforesaid.

And be it further enacted, That all and sin- Money, raised  
 gular the Rents, Taxes and Sums of Money by the Corpo-  
 to be received, raised or levied by the said Cor- ration upon  
 poration, from, upon, or upon Account of the taxable  
 such Part of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, Lands in the  
 as lie within the said North Level, shall be respective Le-  
 charged and chargeable, in the first Place, with be applied.  
 the Payment of such Sums of Money as shall  
 at any Time hereafter be borrowed by the  
 said Corporation upon Account of the said  
 North Level, and the Interest of such Sums;  
 any thing in the said Act of the twenty-seventh  
 Year

Year of his present Majesty's Reign to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding: And that all and singular the Rents, Taxes and Sums of Money to be received, raised or levied by the said Corporation, from, upon, or upon Account of such Part of the said ninety-five thousand Acres as lie within the said Middle and South Levels, or either of them, shall be charged and chargeable, in the first Place, with the Payment of the aforesaid Debt of twenty-seven thousand four hundred and forty Pounds, and of such other Sums of Money as shall be borrowed upon Account of the said Middle and South Levels, and of the Interest of such Debt and Sums of Money: And the Receiver of the said Corporation is hereby empowered and required, out of the first Money which shall from Time to Time come to his Hands, arising from the Rents, Taxes and Revenues of the said North Level, to pay the Interest of such Bonds as shall be entered into upon Account of the said North Level, and also the Principal Money due upon such Bonds, upon six Months Notice left for that Purpose at the Office of the said Corporation in *London*, by the Person or Persons possessed of such Bonds; and the said Receiver is also hereby empowered and required, out of the first Money which shall from Time to Time come to his Hands, arising from the Rents, Taxes and Revenues of the said Middle and South Levels, to pay the Interest of such Bonds as shall be entered into upon Account of the said Middle and South Levels, and also the Principal Money

Bonds to be  
paid off, upon  
six Months  
Notice given  
at the Fen  
Office:



ney due upon such Bonds, upon like Notice left at the Office of the said Corporation.

**Provided** always, and it is hereby enacted, If not paid, and declared, That in case any of the Bonds Revenues of, to be given by the said Corporation, upon Ac- the Corpora- count of the said North Level, or upon Ac- tion to vest in count of the said Middle and South Levels, the Possessors of the Bonds, shall not be paid by the said Receiver, pur- till Payment. suant to such Notice left or given as aforesaid, then the Rents, Taxes and Revenues of the said North Level, and of the said Middle and South Levels, shall respectively vest in the Person or Persons possessed of such Bonds, until the same, together with all Interest due thereupon, shall be fully satisfied and paid: And such Person or Persons, their Executors, Administrators or Assigns, shall have the same Power, Rights and Privileges of recovering the said Rents, Taxes and Revenues of the said North Level, and of the said Middle and South Levels respectively, as the said Corporation would have had, in Case such Bonds had been regularly and fully satisfied and paid.

**And** be it further enacted, That a distinct Account shall, from Time to Time, be kept of the Rents, Taxes, Revenues and Sums of Money arising and payable to the said Corporation within the said North Level, and of all Monies which shall be applied and disposed of for the Use or upon Account of the said North Level, or any Part thereof; and that a like Account shall, from Time to Time, be kept of the Rents, Taxes, Revenues, and Sums of Money, arising and payable to the said Corporation within the said Middle and South Levels, and of all Monies which shall be applied and dis-

Distinct Ac- counts to be kept of the Revenues of the respective Lands.



disposed of for the Use or upon Account of the  
said Middle and South Levels, or either of  
them.

**Publick Act.** And be it further enacted and declared, That this Act shall be deemed and allowed, in all Courts within this Kingdom, to be a publick Act; and shall be judicially taken Notice of as such, by all Judges, Justices, and other Persons, without specially pleading the same.

ANKS, no longer in the hands of the  
but for rowing home  
of the

THE YORKS

—To have 2,000 ft. explosive of 120 lbs.

Maurice J. Friedman

—To have it let our wisdom enter the gates.

100-443887-100

1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific information required.

10-10-1964

*[Faint, illegible text at the bottom of the page]*

TO THE

12.10001 6.01215 A 99999

—To make Drains and Cisterns

any where, making Records

—To have new River, Old, London, Bridge.

and Forelands

100

Charles A. Richmond, Chairman

1980

—WEEK 33 ALL DEPT. OF LAW 10 JANUARY 1964

11 7/8

\_\_\_\_\_

*An Act for the regulating the Commencement of the Year; and for correcting the Calendar now in Use.*

AND be it further enacted by the Authority  
aforesaid, that the several Meetings of the Court  
of Session, and Terms fixed for the Court of Exche-  
quer in *Scotland*, the *April* Meeting of the Gover-  
nor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty of the Company of  
Conservators of the Great Level of the Fens, and  
the holding and keeping of all Markets, Fairs and  
Marts, whether for the Sale of Goods or Cattle, or  
for the Hiring of Servants, or for any other Purpose,  
which are either fix'd to certain nominal Days of  
the Month, or depending upon the Beginning, or  
any certain Day of any Month, and all Courts inci-  
dent or belonging to, or usually holden or kept with  
any such Fairs or Marts, fix'd to such certain Times  
as aforesaid, shall not from and after the said second  
Day of *September*, be continued upon, or according  
to the nominal Days of the Month, or the Time  
of the Beginning of any Month, to be computed  
according to the said new Calendar; but that from  
and after the said second Day of *September*, The said  
Courts of Session and Exchequer, the said *April*  
Meeting, and all such Markets, Fairs and Marts as  
aforesaid, and all Courts incident or belonging there-  
to, shall be holden and kept upon, or according to  
the same natural Days, upon or according to which  
the same should have been so kept or holden in case

this Act had not been made; that is to say, Eleven Days later than the same would have happened, according to the nominal Days of the said new Supputation of Time, by which the Commencement of each Month, and the nominal Days thereof, are anticipated or brought forward, by the Space of Eleven Days; any Thing in this Act contained to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

*Rule for finding the Day on which the annual April Meeting of the Corporation at Ely is to be held.*

**B**Y the 20th of *Charles 2.* the first Day of the *April Meeting* is fixed on the *Wednesday* after the first *Sunday* in *April*; by 2 *Geo. 2. C. 23.* the *April Meeting* is to be holden Eleven Days later than the same would have happened according to the nominal Days of the new Supputation. Therefore take the first Eleven Days out of *April*, look for the first *Sunday* after the Eleventh Day, and the *Wednesday* after that *Sunday* will be the first Day of the *April Meeting*. As for Example, for the Year 1762, the first *Sunday* after the Eleventh falls on the 18th of *April*, the *Wednesday* after that *Sunday* is the 21st, which will be the first Day of the *April Meeting* for that Year.

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